

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 354.—VOL. 14.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1862.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED 3½D.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

A COUNCIL was held at Osborne on Monday last, at which Parliament was prorogued until the 6th of February. This is, we trust, an indication that the difficulty in America will be amicably adjusted; but, should this not be the case, it is quite according to precedent to summon it by proclamation, after fourteen days' notice. On the following day the prorogation took place with all necessary form and ceremony by the Royal Commissioners appointed for the purpose.

According to the old maxim, that "bad news travels fast," we may, from the delays which have occurred, anticipate an answer of a satisfactory character from the Federal Government at Washington. And this, notwithstanding the fluent nonsense which Mr. Oliver Wendell Phillips has been talking at New York. Mr. Phillips is a distinguished advocate of slave emancipation; but he cannot resist that unscrupulous desire for popularity which is the worst characteristic of the American mind—and as a tendency to toady the multitude is the vilest inherent vice of a democracy—he, consequently, must needs attack England, though England is the land of the free, which he has himself so frequently lauded ("ter geminis honoribus,") for the example which she set to the world in the generous emancipation of her slaves. He moreover vouchsafes, without an iota of argument to support his position, the declaration that, were he in the Presidential chair, he would never give up Messrs. Mason and Slidell. Mr. Phillips is not the only boisterous and braggart orator of the crisis. At the dinner held at the Astor House Hotel, New York, two days before Christmas, some of the members of the New England Society ventilated their oratory in a manner creditable neither to themselves nor their association. The Hon.

R. J. Walker is of opinion that England has "sown the seeds of an everlasting hatred," and prophesies that "the time will come when the flag of the American Union shall float victoriously over every acre of British American soil." Mr. Walker must be strangely ignorant of the stern determination of England and the enthusiastic loyalty of Canada. Mr. Seward, so notorious as the bitter enemy of this country, was not present at the banquet, but a letter from him was read, the tone of which is more conciliatory than usual. He discovers on a sudden that the interests of England and America are indissolubly con-

nected, and says that whatever affects the one must touch the other. Here all sensible men will rejoice if America, by a wise submission, prevents the horrors of a war; but on the part of those who, from some wrongheaded notions, or some motives of self-interest, have been, by pen and voice, advocating war, there is already a feeling of disappointment expressed. This is shown by some organs in the daily press by an indiscriminate, reckless, and extravagant abuse of the

At home our journals teem with horrors of every kind. A murder near Carlisle; a felonious elopement and capture at Hartlepool; an explosion of gunpowder at Wolverhampton; fall of a building at Rochdale; an alarming accident in a menagerie; a new case of most ingenious swindling by borrowing money on watches and chains of scarcely any value; the inquest on the bodies of the victims of carelessness or clumsiness at St. Martin's Hall, are only a

few of the items that make up the Black Book of the week, to say nothing of the disgusting details of the everlasting Windham case. In this case counsel called the attention of the Court to the fact that some organs of the public press were discussing its merits pending the investigation. The advocates of the alleged lunatic deprecated the notion that their client had in any way attempted to exercise any influence with the potentates of the Fourth Estate. The Court has in this case sat nineteen days, and has changed its locale from the Court of Exchequer to the building in which the Sessions for the county of Middlesex are held at Westminster.

On no ground of theological prejudice, but from very different reasons, we rejoice to hear that Father Daly, the Irish priest who took such an active part in reference to the Galway Packet station question, has been suspended by his Bishop, Dr. McEvilly. Of whatever church, sect, or denomination, ecclesiastics were never meant to be turbulent agitators and meddlesome busy-bodies in secular affairs. While on the subject of priests, we may note the fact that Mr. Spurgeon has been distinguishing himself at Exeter Hall. His subject was "Counterfeits," and he seems to have made some admirable points. One of the main elements of his success is that, despite the narrow theological theories which he advocates,

there is a broad humanity and an unctuous humour about the man when he touches on matters of every-day life.

Lord Stanley presided at the opening of the Kirkdale Ragged Schools on Tuesday last, and delivered an excellent and most practical address. We have seldom read anything more true and graphic than his description of the condition of society in the larger towns of the empire. He argued the question of the duty of the rich to help the poor, and help the most wretched even of our juvenile criminal population, with ability and earnestness. "Simple humanity," he said, "apart from duty, might be enough, if only our imaginations were



HON. W. H. SEWARD, THE FEDERAL AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE.

North, and by an equally violent tone of invective against all who have advocated peace. There can be little doubt but that we shall very shortly hear of some hard fighting between the Federal and the Confederate armies. Whatever the ultimate result of the conflict, the North must now enjoy some successes. It would be well for both parties that our difficulty with the North should be adjusted. At present it disturbs trade and commerce, and produces a general depression. January is never the liveliest of months, commercially and financially, however socially festive it may be. The gloom that enveloped the close of the old year has not been dissipated by the dawn of the new,

not too dull and our thoughts too much occupied to have before us the miserable state of these outcast children of the streets. A love of order, of security, of social peace, ought to lead us to try and remove from our streets a class whose presence in them is a danger, a disturbance, and a disgrace. Policy ought to show us the importance of disproving by our actions the accusation which rises ever too readily to the lips of patient poverty—that the rich know nothing and care little for the sufferings of the poor." This is sound and sensible philanthropy. This is the right method to effect what his father, Lord Derby, plumes himself on adopting as his peculiar mission, though he carries it out in a less conciliatory and less successful way—viz., to "stem the tide of democracy."

Since writing the above, we have received the gratifying intelligence that Messrs. Mason and Slidell have been surrendered, and that the disagreement between Great Britain and America is at an end. We are heartily glad of it. The difficulty was not of our creating; and a war with the Federal States, though it might have been a necessity, would have been a sad one. To the angry mutterings of the American press we pay little heed. They talk of yielding to the exigencies of the time, but swear to be "most horribly revenged" at some future period. We can well afford to allow the Americans—and especially the American press—this little vent for the feeling of wounded pride arising from having to bate somewhat of the confident tone in which the matter of the Trent was at first discussed by them. Time, and the good sense of our Transatlantic cousins, will, we trust, suffice to cure the wound and mollify their ruffled sensibilities. Neither need we trouble ourselves about the protest from the Cabinet of Washington which is said to accompany the surrender of the Commissioners. If the affair should lead to a more distinct definition of the respective rights of belligerents and neutrals, and a better understanding of our position in reference to the two sections of the American people now unhappily at war with each other, good will have come out of evil, and the disquiet and expense the "Trent difficulty" has caused us will not have been endured in vain.

Of the new outrage alleged to have been committed on our flag we need say nothing: the lesser offence cannot be productive of mischief when the greater has been atoned for.

SETTLEMENT OF THE AMERICAN DIFFICULTY. RELEASE OF MESSRS. SLIDELL AND MASON.

THE steamer City of Washington arrived from New York on Wednesday afternoon, and has brought the welcome intelligence of the settlement of the difficulty with America. The following official notification of the fact has been made public by the authorities at the Foreign Office:—

"FOREIGN OFFICE, JAN. 8.

"A telegram, dated Dec. 27, was received at the Foreign Office from Lord Lyons, soon after four o'clock this afternoon, announcing that the United States' Government had consented to deliver to him the four prisoners when and where he pleased."

The following telegrams have also been received from New York:—
Messrs. Mason and Slidell have been set at liberty by the Federal Government.

The New York Associated Press publish the following telegrams:—
The surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell will be better accepted as a political necessity on the seaboard than in the interior and in the West. It is unquestionable that in the agricultural portion of the Union the popular sentiment at this act of the President will be profound and lasting. On the eastern rim of the Atlantic slope his declaration that he could not have two wars at once on his hands will be accepted as the justification of his policy.

The Washington Cabinet accompany the notification of their readiness to give up Messrs. Slidell and Mason by an elaborate protest against the pressure put upon it in the affair.

The tone of the American press on the subject of the surrender of the Confederate Commissioners may be gathered from the subjoined extracts:—

The New York Herald argues that the Federal Government gain no advantage in retaining Messrs. Mason and Slidell, and that their surrender may take away the pretext for English and French interference. "The New York Herald continues:—'The storm may blow over, but it will leave a debt of abuse from England to be repaid hereafter by America.' The Herald also urges the passing of a tariff in favour of French goods to the exclusion of English manufactures."

The New York Times thinks that "while England regards the rebels as belligerents and America regards them as rebels a pretext for war will eventually arise."

The New York World is of opinion that people will submit to the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell as a necessity of the present position; but with the hope of avenging their surrender hereafter.

MR. SEWARD, FEDERAL SECRETARY OF STATE.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State, or, as we may call him, Prime Minister, in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet, was born in Orange county, in the State of New York, on May 16, 1801, and is consequently in his sixty-first year. He was educated at Union College in that State, and took the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1820, and of Master of Arts in 1824. At the age of twenty-one he established himself at Auburn in the profession of the law, and soon acquired a lucrative and extending practice. Early in his public and professional life he travelled in the Southern Slave States, and is supposed to have formed at that time the opinions and principles hostile to slavery to which he has since given such eloquent and oft-repeated expression. To a greater degree than is known of any other American statesman—Mr. Sumner, perhaps, excepted—the object of his life seems to have been to counteract the aggrandisement and prevent the extension of that "peculiar institution." Upon other questions Mr. Seward's policy may be described as humanitarian. He is in favour of the education of the people, of the amelioration of the laws, and of the development of the material resources of the United States. In these respects he has ever been among the foremost of American statesmen, and may justly claim the praise bestowed upon him by his friends, and scarcely denied by his opponents, of being "the best and clearest head in America." In 1830 he had acquired such influence and character that he was elected a member of the Senate of the State of New York, then, like the House of Lords in this country, the highest judicial tribunal of the State, as well as a legislative body. In 1831, at the

close of his term of four years, he was nominated a candidate for the governorship of the State of New York, in opposition to Mr. William L. Marcy, the then Governor, and, later, the distinguished Secretary of State of the Central Government of the United States. On this occasion Mr. Seward was defeated by a majority of nearly 10,000. In 1839, his party becoming bolder and stronger, he was triumphantly elected, in opposition to Mr. Marcy, the majority being greater than his previous minority. His peculiar principles and policy, especially with respect to the great and ubiquitous question of slavery, marked his administration, and came to be known throughout the country as "Sewardism." From having boldly asserted that there was a "higher law" than the law of the United States—the law of Nature and the Gospel—a law that condemned slavery—he laid himself open to much obloquy, and the political nickname of "Higher-law Seward" was applied to him by his opponents as a term of reproach. The principles which he then advocated have been ever since, and now are, the subject of vehement contest, and actually constitute the dividing line of parties in the United States between the Democrats and the Republicans.

It was during Mr. Seward's administration, and under his direction, that the authorities of New York refused to surrender Alexander McLeod, once notorious in the Canadian rebellion, without a trial, under a threat of the British Government. In 1843 Mr. Seward retired voluntarily from the office of Governor, and devoted himself to his private affairs. But such a man, with so clear a head and so fluent a tongue, the ablest debater in America, could not long be spared from the strife of parties. The government of the State of New York, important as it was, was too narrow an arena for the full exercise of his abilities, and he aspired to rise to that wider sphere of Congress, where all the great minds of the Republic hope to distinguish themselves. Without having passed through the lower stratum of the House of Representatives, he was, in 1849, elected to the Senate of the United States for six years. He gave so much satisfaction that he was re-elected in 1855. In this place he refused, in 1850, to compromise the slavery question, the key-stone to American politics. This refusal brought him into opposition not only to the Democratic party, but also to his own, then led by those eminent statesmen, Mr. Clay, Mr. Webster, and Mr. Fillmore. This division resulted later in the disorganisation of both of the old and traditional parties, and the organisation of two virtually new ones, directly on the policy of permitting or checking the further extension of slavery in the United States. Until the war broke out, the Democrats went with the South, but, after the capture of Fort Sumter, both the Northern parties united in the one great aim of a successful prosecution of the contest; though it is said that there are indications that the Democratic party is recovering from the prostration brought upon it by the triumph of Mr. Lincoln and the Republicans, and that it is making efforts to regain the ascendancy which it then lost.

Second only to Mr. Lincoln, the President, in official dignity and position, and, as is generally considered, surpassing him in capacity and personal importance as a politician, Mr. Seward just now fills a prominent place in the eye of the world, and is regarded by his countrymen as their special champion and representative, especially in regard to the dealings of the States with foreign countries. In this character he has also been the object of much animadversion, and perhaps misrepresentation and vituperation, from a portion of the press in this country, particularly since the occurrence of the Trent affair, which he is accused of having planned from the first, though the exigencies of the time have rendered it convenient for the Washington Cabinet to disavow the conduct of Captain Wilks. A speech Mr. Seward is alleged to have delivered about the year 1849, in which he spoke of the probability of Canada joining the Union, has furnished a theme for the criticism, in no friendly spirit, of those journals in this country which have been distinguished by a tone the most decidedly hostile to America in discussing the recent difference between that country and ourselves. It is but fair to Mr. Seward, however, to say that both himself and those who are most intimate with him disavow the hostility to England with which he has been charged. Mr. Seward's latest declarations on this subject are contained in a letter, just published, excusing himself from attending a dinner of the "New England Society." In this letter Mr. Seward says:—"If it were an Old England dinner instead of a New England feast, I would certainly strain a point to attend. I would like so good an opportunity to attempt to show to our cousins across the seas that there is no material benefit or moral influence that can accrue to us that will not also increase the prosperity and greatness of Great Britain, and that every disaster that befalls the United States is also pregnant with suffering and sorrow, sooner or later to be borne by Great Britain."

Mr. Thurlow Weed, a leading journalist and politician of America, who is at present in England, in a letter to a daily contemporary, thus remarks on Mr. Seward's alleged designs upon Canada, as developed in the speech already referred to, and on other occasions:—"I am persuaded that such references—and they have occurred on several occasions—were in no spirit hostile to England. Mr. Seward is speculative and sanguine in his views, anticipating for America a destiny as brilliant as that predicted by an eminent British philosopher, who foresaw an empire rising westward. Mr. Seward, in America, is known, as a statesman, to be in advance of the age. He has believed in the possibility during his own lifetime of seeing that continent consolidated under one Government; and this less by conquest than from natural causes and by general consent. His course as a public man has heretofore been influenced more by considerations of this nature than by the present and passing events which just now, I grieve to say, cloud the American future; but I am unwilling to add darker tints to this picture by any act or word calculated to provoke a war with England."

As the Federal Secretary of State is playing, and is seemingly destined to play, a conspicuous part in events which will not only greatly influence the destinies of his own country but materially affect the well-being of the world at large, the Portrait on the preceding page will, we are persuaded, be specially interesting to our readers at the present moment.

CANADIAN MILITIA.—At the date of our last Canadian despatches it was proposed to call out the sedentary militia to the extent of 100 men to each parish, and this will give to Lower Canada a gross number of 62,000 men, and Upper Canada, by furnishing a similar quota—and at the date of our last letters there was every appearance that such would be the case—the Government has at its disposal an available force of nearly 125,000 men, in addition to the active force of about 6000, and the Queen's troops, with artillery, also numbering about 6000, and exclusive of those regiments now on their way to the St. Lawrence. The only difficulty in furnishing this contingent was to be found in the fact that the men would have to be mustered without arms; but the arrival of the Melbourne and other steamers, which has already taken place, partially removes embarrassment on that score, and, as the supplies of arms and ammunition forwarded hence were of the most liberal character, we are assured that there will be no lack of equipment for as many men as the necessities of the struggle may demand.

CAPE RACE.—Cape Race, which is so often mentioned now in connection with our intercourse with the United States, is the south-eastern point of Newfoundland, and is the nearest point to Europe. The North Transatlantic steamers pass near there on their way to and from the United Kingdom and the United States. There is a telegraphic communication between Cape Race and New York. The distance by water is about 900 miles, and upwards of 1000 miles by land. Outward-bound steamers carry out-pitomes of English news in tin cases attached to floats, which are thrown overboard off Cape Race and are picked up by boats, taken ashore, and the pitomes are telegraphed to New York three days before the outward packets can reach that port. Sometimes these cases are not found, and occasionally captains of steamers refuse to communicate with Cape Race, and carry on their news to New York or Boston, for the sake of the direct and interest the bearers of important news excite. Steamers, as they leave North America and pass Cape Race on their way to England, receive telegrams from America, with three days' later news, to bring to this country; but sometimes the darkness of night and rough weather prevent these telegrams from being put on board the steamers.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Paris journals timidly venture a few remarks on the answer of the Emperor to the felicitations of the Senate. They assume that the Emperor intends to grant some liberal reforms in the Constitution; but, says the *Temps*, with much pertinence, "the journals are excluded from those grave discussions in which the future of the country is deeply interested, and we know not to what point we are allowed to express an opinion on the Imperial words. Perhaps it is a great boldness on our part even to mention what we approve of." Such, in fact, is the frightful uncertainty which prevails among the printers and publishers of Paris, owing to the arbitrary conduct of M. de Persigny, that a meeting of the leading firms has resolved to address the Senate to re-establish the old censorship, by which all works, newspaper articles, &c., will have judgment passed on them before being published, instead of unintentionally committing what M. de Persigny or any other Minister of the Interior may consider an offence.

There seems every prospect that the Cabinet of Baron Ricasoli will speedily fall. Should Ratazzi succeed to power, it is believed the negotiations for the transfer of Rome to the Italian kingdom will be resumed.

ITALY.

On the reassembling of the Italian Chambers, on the 4th inst., Signor Ratazzi communicated to the Chamber of Deputies a speech delivered by the King in reply to a Parliamentary deputation. In this speech the King said he was confident that the union between the Crown and people would always remain firm, and that although, for reasons with which every one is acquainted, the Italian cause had not made great progress during the past year, he hoped that the new year would be more favourable. Baron Ricasoli has demanded a credit of 2,000,000 lire, to purchase arms for the National Guard.

The decree for suppressing the lieutenantcy of Sicily has been signed by the King, and will take effect from the 1st of February. The Director of the Ecclesiastical Caisse has sent a circular to the Prefects requesting them to draw up lists of administrators, with a view to operations for taking possession of the property of the suppressed religious communities.

Garibaldi has accepted the presidency of the Rifle Association of Genoa, and has addressed a letter to the members of that body, in which he says, "Hasten to prepare yourselves to take up arms, for the moment approaches when you will have to give fresh proofs of your valour."

Some new outbreaks of brigandage in the Neapolitan provinces, and the capture of a brigand chief, are announced. It is also stated that a patrol of cavalry had been duped by false intelligence, as in a former memorable instance, and had fallen into an ambush of brigands, in which sixteen of the soldiers lost their lives. The messengers by whom the soldiers were betrayed have been arrested. A reactionary movement has taken place at Castellamare, in Sicily. Troops have been dispatched from Palermo to the scene of the disturbances. The population of Palermo is very excited, and has offered to co-operate with the Government in the suppression of the movement.

On New-Year's Day the officers of the Pope's army were presented by Mgr. Mérode, and in his reply to their address his Holiness likened himself to King David, and his enemies to Absalom and his abettors; the fate of whom, he predicted, will be that of all those by whom he has been outraged and betrayed. His Holiness at the same time announced that he would never relinquish a title of the domains of the Church, which, he said, are the guarantee of the liberty and independence of the Vicar of Jesus Christ. On the same day, in answer to the congratulations of General Goyon and the French officers, the Pope hoped that the presence of the French soldiers at Rome would not permit the fulfilment of any irreligious or impolitic act. His Holiness concluded by bestowing the Apostolic benediction on the Emperor of the French, the Imperial family, and the whole French army.

A proclamation, printed at Rome by order of the Bourbon Committee, exhorts the National Guard of the Neapolitan provinces to expel the Piedmontese, declaring that the Neapolitans alone have the right of settling their future destinies.

PORTUGAL.

A proposal has been submitted to the Chamber of Peers to the effect that the King be prayed to provide for the succession to the throne by arranging his marriage with the least possible delay; and a bill has been presented to the Cortes annulling the renunciation of the right of succession to the throne made by the Infantas Dona Maria Anna and Dona Antonia on their marriage, the former with Prince George of Saxony and the latter with Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen. This bill also provides that Dom Ferdinand shall be Regent in the event of the death of Luiz I.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

It is denied that any reduction of the Austrian Army will take place, because, it is said, the very existence of the empire depends on maintaining an ample military force, whatever may be the state of the finances.

Rumours from Pesth speak of concessions to Hungary having been resolved upon at a Council of the Austrian Cabinet in Vienna, presided over by the Emperor—concessions which would tend to diminish the basis of the difference between the Government and the Hungarian nation. But we very much doubt the value of any concessions which the Viennese Cabinet would be disposed spontaneously to offer.

Martial law has been proclaimed in the comitat of Pesth for trying cases of rapine, murder, arson, and desertion. The punishment of death by hanging is decreed against any person, without distinction of rank or quality, who may be convicted of either of these offences.

The Mayor of Pesth has been arrested and tried before a court-martial for having refused to give up the archives of the municipality to the Austrian authorities.

PRUSSIA.

Intelligence from Berlin states that the King of Prussia has caught a severe cold, which confines his Majesty to his bed, but the symptoms have not as yet presented anything of a serious character.

In replying to the congratulations of the Ministers on New-Year's Day, his Majesty mentioned the heavy losses which the Royal house had to lament, and said:—"The past year had been marked by many sad events. The year now commencing has likewise a serious aspect, because the state of things in Germany, in Europe, and, in fact, in the whole world, presents eventualities the possible development of which renders it our duty to be prepared and to stand united together; and this shall certainly be done."

The National Verein has sent another sum of 10,000R. to the Prussian Ministry of Marine for the German fleet. The King of Denmark has prohibited the collection of subscriptions for the German fleet in the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg.

HESSIE CASSEL.

The members of the Second Chamber, in reply to the communications of the Government, have made a declaration to the effect that they cannot relinquish the rights granted to the country by the Constitution of 1831. In consequence of this declaration, a decree was read on Wednesday dissolving the Chamber.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

The Emperor has issued a decree closing the University of St. Petersburg, in consequence of the late disturbances, until a new set of regulations can be framed. The students and professors are

also dismissed, but the former may pursue their studies at other Russian Universities, while the professors may be reinstated in their posts when the new regulations are promulgated. Admiral Putiatin has been replaced in his functions of Minister of Public Instruction by M. de Golovnine. The latter is a man of moderate fortune who has made his way by his own merits.

Correspondence from Russia speaks of an intention on the part of the Emperor to abolish the system of corporal punishment for offences committed among the poorer classes of society. The first step of reform is to be the suppression of this shameful mode of punishment as applied to females; and it is stated that the Minister of the Interior has already issued a circular to all the local authorities of the country, notifying the fact that the system is to be abolished as regards women, and directing that, pending the adoption of a formal decree, the practice be discontinued.

Monsignor Felinski, Catholic Archbishop of St. Petersburg, has been appointed Archbishop of Warsaw. It has transpired at Warsaw that Prince Czartorski has had a private audience of the Pope, in which his Holiness had expressed his decided disapproval of the proceeding of M. Bialobrzski in closing the churches of Warsaw. It is expected that the state of siege in Poland will be raised. The city of Warsaw is quiet.

The sentence upon Mgr. Bialobrzski has been commuted by the Emperor to one year's imprisonment in a fortress. The Emperor has ordered all due respect to be paid to the age and clerical character of the venerable prisoner.

The Government is placed in a considerable difficulty in consequence of an anathema launched by the Israelitish clergy against the spy system. All the best spies in the Russian service were Jews; their refusal to do this dirty work any longer has completely disorganised a department of the State.

TURKEY AND MONTENEGRO.

The Montenegrins have violated the territory of Sosisma. 1500 Bashi-Bazouks have been dispatched from Antivari to drive them back. Siliza and Karnitza have been reoccupied by the Montenegrins.

Omar Pacha has sent a new proclamation to the insurgents, promising a complete amnesty to some, and clemency to others, if they spontaneously surrender. Military operations will be suspended by the Turks until the receipt of the reply of the insurgents.

GREECE.

Advices received from Athens on the 28th ult. state that a violent shock of earthquake had occurred along the northern coast of the Peloponnesus. Athens was uninjured, but New and Old Corinth, Egina, and Patras had been damaged. The Chamber at Athens had voted a sum of 10,000 drachmas to relieve the sufferers by this catastrophe.

CHINA.

Accounts from China state that the Cabinet, the members of which were hostile to Europeans, had been dissolved; that Prince Kung had been appointed Regent of the empire; that a new Ministry had been appointed under his presidency; that the old Ministers had been imprisoned, and even that several of them had been executed or had strangled themselves by order of the Emperor.

INDIA.

The intelligence from India is satisfactory. The health of the country generally was good; trade and commerce were thriving; cotton was being abundantly planted; and peace pervaded the whole country. The North-West Provinces, so recently ravaged by famine, were covered with promising crops, and the people happy and contented. Lord Canning had relinquished his intention of visiting Godavery and Burmah, and had decided on returning to England almost immediately. Mr. Laing had arrived at Calcutta. Perhaps the most interesting item of news is the announcement that the miscreant Nana Sahib had been captured at Kurrachee, while attempting to leave India in the disguise of a merchant; there is some doubt of his identity, but the evidence in favour of it is very strong. The murderer of the late Major Burton and his sons has been hung at Kotah, the scene of his crimes. Orders had been issued for the creation of a Chief Commissioner for the central province.

IRELAND.

WRECK OF THE ADONIS.—This steamer, from Belfast to London, was driven ashore at Dalkey, near Kingstown, at two o'clock on Saturday morning. She then drifted out to sea, where it was thought she would have sunk from her injured condition; but it is rumoured that she went again ashore at Bray. The crew and passengers were all saved.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—An accident of a serious nature has occurred on the Portadown and Dungannon Railway at a place called Annaghmore, by which one man has lost his life and other persons were severely injured. It appeared that the engine of a luggage-train having got out of order, it became necessary to repair it, and a delay took place in consequence. Whilst it was remaining at the station a passenger-train ran into it, and several persons, it is said, are suffering from the violence of the concussion. A man named Sweeney, a native of Monaghan, received such a shock that he died on Friday morning week.

SECRET SOCIETIES.—It is said to be generally known that secret societies exist in all parts of Ireland, even in Dublin, or are in the course of formation, on an extensive scale. The Young Ireland leaders denounce the organisation, which they affect to believe to be encouraged if not promoted by the authorities at the Castle in pursuance of sinister directions from Downing-street, London. Of course none but the initiated know anything of the avowed objects of the confederacy, but that they are political and mischievous is not doubted.

SIR ROBERT PEEL.—Sir Robert Peel last week attended a meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association at Dublin, in connection with the United Church of England and Ireland, for the parishes of St. Michael and St. Paul, to the schools of which he had presented a donation of £10. He addressed some friendly counsels to the young men, and was enthusiastically applauded. The chairman (the Rev. J. Monahan) stated that Sir Robert had, a few days ago, visited the vaults of St. Michael's. In walking through the churchyard he saw a tombstone with this inscription, "Let no man write his epitaph until Ireland shall be free." Sir Robert Peel remarked, "Now is the time to write it, for there is no country more free than Ireland." It was the tomb of Robert Emmett.

FATHER DALY IN TROUBLE.—The Rev. Peter Daly has long ruled as a sort of despot in the affairs of the town of Galway. He was chairman of the Town Commissioners and one of the Harbour Commissioners, and, judging from the scenes sometimes reported in the local journals, he did not bear his honours meekly, and could ill brook any contradiction or opposition, even from the most respected of the local gentry, who of late showed frequent symptoms of impatience and vexation at this clerical domination in secular affairs. At length, however, they have called upon his Bishop to interfere, as appears from a Galway letter just published. The correspondent says:—"Father Daly has been suspended by the Roman Catholic Bishop, Dr. McEvilly, for having taken the chair at the meeting of the Town Commissioners, in disregard of the Bishop's injunction, who commanded him some time ago to abstain from all secular pursuits. The Bishop was induced to take this step (I mean of issuing the injunction) by the representations of some gentlemen, members of the board, who complained that Father Daly systematically insulted them."

SCOTLAND.

EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND.—A deputation of the Educational Institute of Scotland waited upon the Lord Advocate last week to submit suggestions for an extended scheme of education in Scotland. The principal suggestions were to the effect that new schools should be supported from the Consolidated Fund; that schoolmasters should be elected by proprietors deriving not less than £100 per annum of rental; that the Institute should be allowed to elect two members to each board of examiners; that the appointment of teachers should be permanent, and that complaints against them should be tried by the Sheriff; that the diploma of the Institute should be required of candidates for the new schools; that intermediate schools between the primary schools and the universities should be established in all large towns and populous districts; that fees should be exacted from all pupils; that the minimum salary of teachers should be £50, exclusive of fees; that the minimum retiring allowance should be £50, or four-fifths of the salary; that no child should be allowed to work for hire

under ten, or under twelve without passing a certain examination. The Lord Advocate expressed his concurrence in the principle of some of the suggestions, and stated that the subject was under the consideration of Government, but that he was not in a position to give the deputation any assurance that a measure would be introduced.

THE PROVINCES.

A NOVEL POST OFFICE ROBBERY.—A singular circumstance occurred at Keldred on the other day. The postman was conveying a money letter to Mr. Burch, butcher, of that place, when a tame raven, which was sitting near the shop, made a sudden grab at the letter, succeeded in getting possession of it, and instantly, to the great horror of the poor letter-carrier, took flight. The mischievous bird, after a considerable circuit over the houses, alighted in a field belong to his master, and there, before it could be prevented, he tore the letter to fragments. On putting the pieces together, the letter was found to contain a cheque for £30.

FAILURE OF THE BILSTON SAVINGS-BANK.—DEFALCATIONS OF THE REV. MR. FLETCHER, THE MANAGER.—The failure of the Bilston Savings-bank is announced. The bank has been in existence many years, and was managed almost exclusively by the Incumbent of the parish, the Rev. Horatio Samuel Fletcher. The last published statement showed some £28,000 in the hands of the trustees, or deposited in Government and other securities. A new set of trustees having been appointed and a fresh actuary elected, the accounts were examined, and it was found that there had been less money invested on the trustees' behalf by some £2840 than had been deposited. A meeting of the trustees was held on Thursday week, and a solicitor attended on Mr. Fletcher's behalf. The rev. gentleman has admitted that he had made use of the money, and he is willing to make every possible reparation, but is not yet able to make any proposal. The living, it is expected, will be sequestrated; and it is hoped that a large portion of the amount due may be realised. The money in hand will enable the trustees to pay 13s. in the pound.

ALARMING ACCIDENT IN A MENAGERIE.—Macomo, "the African lion-tamer," well known throughout England in connection with Manders's Menagerie, is now confined to his bed at Norwich, having met with an alarming accident a few days since while going through some of his performances. It appears that Macomo, who is a very intelligent and courageous African, was engaged in representing a lion and tiger hunt when a young lion suddenly reared and caught him by the shoulders. Macomo had a spangled dress on, or probably the performance would have been his last; as it was, he was dragged down and the lion fastened upon his left hand. Macomo, however, happily slipped and fell under the lion near the railing of the large den in which the "hunt" had been represented; and, his assailant being beaten off with an iron rod, he was quickly released from his critical position. It was then found that he had been severely bitten in the hand, and part of the forefinger has been amputated. Macomo (who was bitten in the leg by a lioness while exhibiting in Norwich two years since) is now progressing favourably.

SHOCKING BARBARITY.—At an inquest held a few days ago at the Towers, Poynton, near Macclesfield, the evidence revealed the most revolting depravity of a collier named John Daniels, as well as the pitiable circumstances in which his family were placed. The inquest was held on the body of his daughter, Ann Daniels. This young woman, together with her mother and brother, was lying in one room, ill of typhus fever. On Friday night week the father took a poker and beat his sick daughter on the head and back, she at the time, according to the evidence, cursing him. The next day the young woman died, and the same night the brother died, and it appears the father had been kicking him on his back on the Thursday before his death. At the inquest a verdict of "manslaughter" was delivered against the father, who, in his turn, is so ill with fever that he cannot be moved. It is stated that the family made large wages, but they were always in abject misery through their improvidence.

MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT MALTON.—On Saturday night, the 28th ult., a cattle-dealer, named Mr. John Dowson, who had attended Malton market, suddenly disappeared. His residence is at Pickering, to which he ought to have gone that evening. His continued absence led to search being made for him, and bills were issued offering a reward for his discovery. It seems some trace of a man answering the description had been found. This person got into the York mail at Malton and travelled to Hutton, it is said, in mistake. He wished to get back to Malton and set off by the riverside. On a search being made there a hat was found, and, in the belief that it belonged to the missing man, three days' search has now been made in the Derwent and the ditches, &c., on both sides, which has resulted in the discovery of Mr. Dowson's body in the Derwent. It is supposed that, walking along the river bank, he had accidentally fallen in. His money was found in his pockets.

THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.

THE FIRST OUTBREAK.

THE eruption of Vesuvius, which began on the 8th of December, still continues, though with less violence than at first. Since the original outbreak on the 8th ult. there have been several discharges of ashes and lava from the craters—two in number—and the destruction of property occasioned has been very great. The town of Torre del Greco is totally destroyed, and the inhabitants driven forth homeless and almost destitute. We this week print an Engraving showing the appearance of the mountain on the first outbreak of the eruption, and give the subjoined details, extracted from letters written from time to time since the commencement of the eruption, which will no doubt be read with interest. One letter dated from Naples on the 10th ult. says:—

"On the 8th, at about a quarter past 11 a.m., a great trembling of the ground was felt at Torre del Greco, which continued at intervals of from five to ten minutes. At Resina this tremulous motion was felt, though not so strongly, about midday. Towards three o'clock in the afternoon a large opening was made in the ground above Torre del Greco, and half a mile lower than the crater of 1774, and the first cone was formed underneath the house of Francesco Cruci. This house was thrown into the air, as were four others in a masseria close by. The lava had arrived on the morning of the 9th at about a quarter of an hour's walk above the Monastery of the Cappucini (which has been destroyed), and is about half a mile in breadth. All the houses in Torre have fissures in them, and the population have fled to Naples. At the time that the new cones were formed the top of the mountain was tranquil, but about two o'clock in the morning the grand crater at the summit burst out with a tremendous noise, throwing stones and ashes to a great height. Every effort of this kind is accompanied by a sound as of thunder.

"From Naples little is seen except those grand columns of smoke which rise gigantically into the air, and which, according to as close a measurement as could be made, were calculated—that from the lower mouths at 10,000ft., and that from the upper crater at 3000ft. in height. Our streets are free from the dust of the mountain, and though for some time after the sun rose it appeared to be in a state of eclipse, yet to witness all the wonders of the spectacle it is necessary to leave the capital and visit the site of the disaster. From the confines of the city to Torre del Greco one passes between two lines of a curious population who have turned out to see the crowds who flock down to Torre del Greco. The wind blows off the mountain due north and south, so that, until you get just under the column, you are not exposed to the shower of dust which falls thickly and constantly, almost blinding one, and certainly not conducive to easy respiration. On arriving at the devoted little town, which numbers, by-the-by, 22,000 souls, I found the place, except at the station, almost deserted. Every house was abandoned; and, as proving how rapid was the flight, melons and other articles still hung suspended outside the windows. At the station there was a vast crowd of persons, some the last lingering inhabitants, with beds and other articles of furniture, anxious to be off; others consisting of the Bersaglieri and Nationals, who remained to guard the place, for misfortune is no protection against the hordes of thieves who just at present drive a thriving trade in the neighbourhood. The first thing which strikes the eye is the blackened appearance of every object, the fine dust, which had fallen in heavy showers, lying four inches and a half in depth in the streets and on the tops of the houses. Some of these were cracked horizontally across the flat roofs, and others perpendicularly; but it is not until you turn off to the left, a little beyond the station, that the full amount of the damage is to be witnessed. From this point, ascending the mountain, a number of houses are passed which have been most materially injured—from 400 to 500 in all—and rendered, to a certain extent, unsafe.

"The road and the streets by which you approach the prin-

cipal point of interest are in many places opened; and there are not one only, but two considerable cones and several smaller ones. The principal of these cones is an ellipse and both at first sent out a body of lava which threatened Torre del Greco with rapid destruction. One of those happy elevations which so often change the course of the current divided it into two streams, flowing down on either side. The opening of the main crater, too, at two o'clock a.m. of Monday morning, diminished the violence of the lower stream, and possibly saved the town for a time. There was a very large crowd of persons assembled here, consisting principally of foreigners, but there were very few Neapolitans, to whom the phenomenon is by no means new. Stretching further into the country and arriving at Torre dell' Annunziata, I found the place overflowing with fugitives, who were lying about the streets, or were grouped on the tops of the houses, discussing their misfortune, and looking with anxiously-inquiring eyes to the new arrivals for intelligence from their homes. The official statement given to me was that 5000 fugitives had come in by ten o'clock on Sunday night, and since then the people have been pouring out from Torre del Greco in all directions. All the magazines had been opened for the accommodation of the poorer classes, who were huddled together by the hundred, with their household goods. As to the better class fugitives, they were quartered about in the private houses in numbers of from five to fifteen each.

"At Castellamare the scene was even more distressing. Boats were coming in laden with bedding, chairs, and tables; the Piazza was crowded with every kind of vehicle, which had brought in many of the sufferers by land; and there they sat, or stood, or lay along on their mattresses, which were spread in the streets. Men and women, old and young, babes in arms, and some sick who could scarcely totter along, were here assembled and gazed across the bay with anxious faces at every fresh discharge of Nature's artillery.

"On the night of the 9th, the view which presented itself from my windows was very grand; the black column rose majestically, and was then carried off by the wind far over the sea, while forked lightning, as it were, and brilliant lights, such as those of Roman candles, played about the crater. While I write the volumes of smoke are rising and rolling one over another in grand involutions, while the eastern sun behind them gives hues which it is difficult to describe. Beyond the pall which hangs over the sea it is impossible to see anything except when an opening is made by a gust of wind, and then one sees a picture of Sorrento or Capri hung in the centre of a deep black cloud. Sailors tell me that on Sunday night they felt the reverberations of the mountain beneath them. Certain it is that the sea, usually so clear and blue, appears like muddy water underneath the column which overshadows the greater part of the bay, and every splash of the oar sends right and left a mass of dust."

ANOTHER VIOLENT ERUPTION.

Another letter, dated Tuesday, Dec. 24, describes a second violent eruption:—

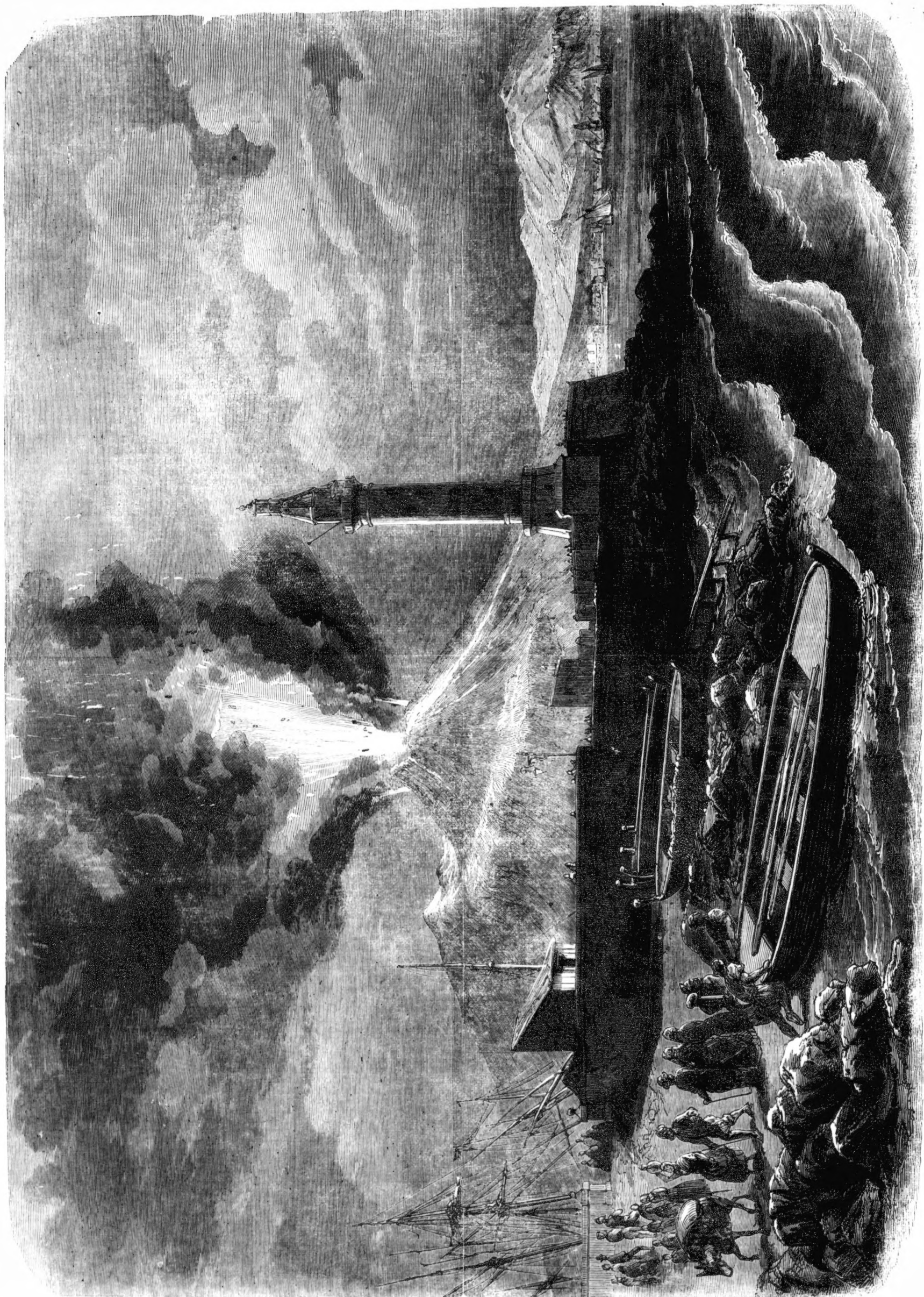
"Since Sunday morning Vesuvius has been in a state of more violent eruption than ever. It was about noon, or a short time before, that we saw the cloud of smoke and ashes rise higher and higher; and, though at Naples we perceived no other indication of its increased activity, at Torre dell' Annunziata there was a violent shock of earthquake which spread consternation among the people. Those who were in church rushed out, many losing their prayer-books, one lady, as I am informed, being crushed to death. Towards evening the eruption had gained gigantic proportions, and yesterday morning when we rose the mountain, sky, and bay were completely enveloped in a cloud of smoke. A north-east wind, accompanied with a slight drizzle at intervals, brought over the city a shower of sand, which plashed against our windows and covered our streets; and when the drizzle ceased the ashes fell on our coats and penetrated into our houses, sensibly affecting the eyes. You may judge of the quantity of ashes that was thrown out when I tell you that the Exmouth, which lies about a quarter of a mile out, was covered with a coat of wet ashes, and that the officer on guard during the night was compelled to take shelter under the poop. At this distance everything is wrapped in a cloud of mystery, but it is pretty evident that another large crater has been formed at the foot of the old crater, and to the right of the Hermitage. The necessities of the people are very great, but funds are coming in, and the authorities are indefatigable in relieving suffering and in providing work for the thousands who are thrown out of employment."

The same writer subsequently adds:—"Vesuvius again! Such a night was that which is past! A hurricane of wind from the north-east and a storm of ashes from the mountain. Two elements were striving for the mastery, and the roaring of each kept me awake the greater part of the night."

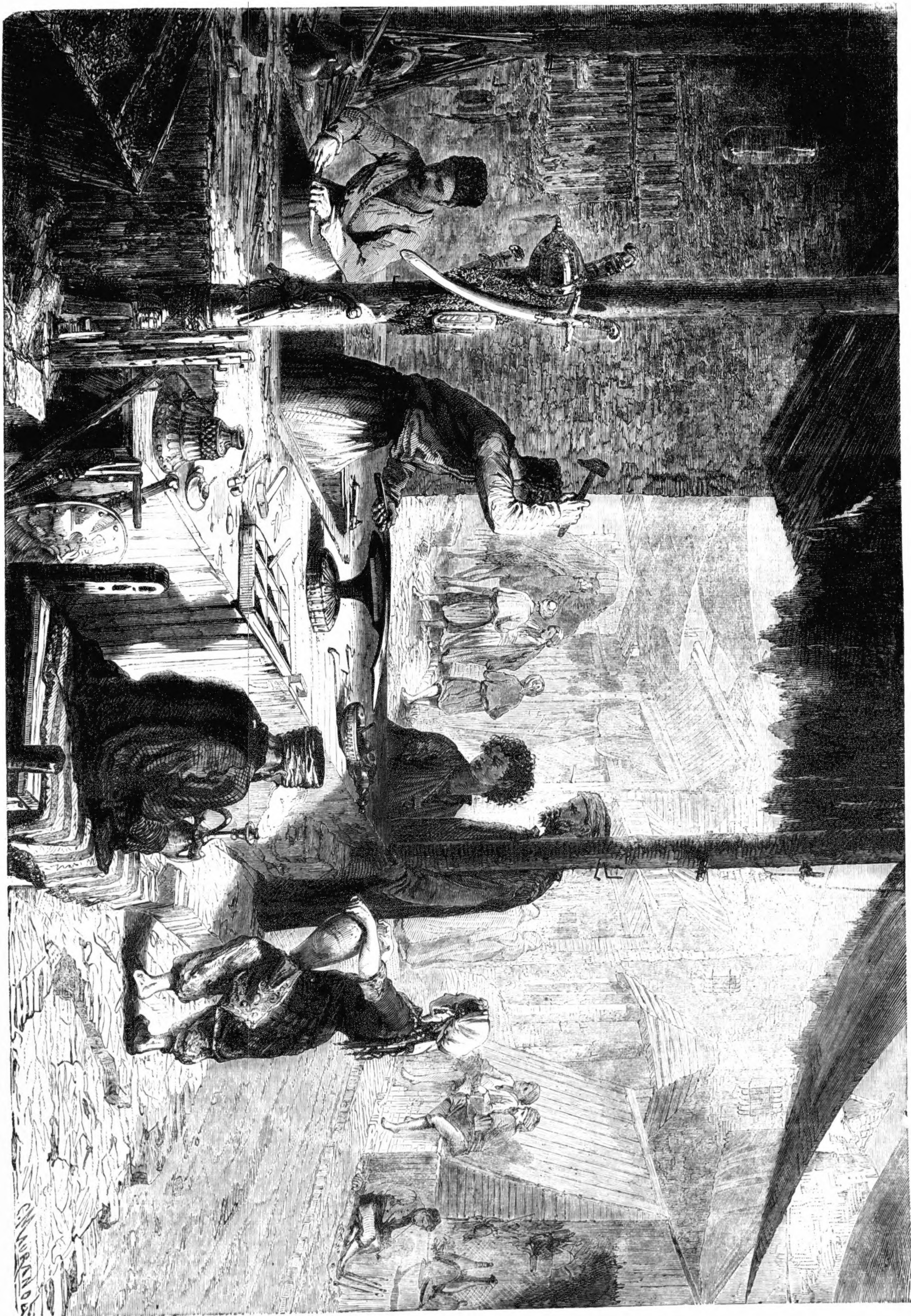
TORRE DEL GRECO AFTER THE ERUPTION.

A letter, dated the 28th of December, gives an account of the damage done by the eruption, which, as will be seen, is enormous:—

"The destruction of a city which numbered 22,000 inhabitants is so startling a fact that I trust I shall not weary you by sending some statistics which I have this week gathered on the spot. Covered with snow, vomiting ashes still like a ten-thousand-horse-power factory-chimney, with a ruined city lying at its feet—such is the spectacle which Vesuvius at this moment presents. Out of a population of 22,000, 15,000 are fugitives. Between fifty and sixty houses have already fallen, and 320 are falling: the rest are more or less injured. Out of eleven churches four only are uninjured; but there is another fearful source of danger—the sulphureous exhalations which are emitted in every direction, and which render houses, in other respects comparatively safe, uninhabitable. By these exhalations five or six persons and all the animals, such as cats, dogs, mice, and birds, and the fishes in the sea, have already been killed. In fact, two-thirds of the city have been destroyed. My companions took me through a narrow lane, on each side of which the houses were on the eve of falling, down to an orange garden belonging to one of them, at the farthest extremity of which gaped a crater twenty feet wide and as many deep. Planks were thrown across, and, getting upon them, I looked in and saw the walls of a church which had been destroyed in 1794, graves which had given up their dead—for the skeletons had been removed as soon as discovered—and the frescoed walls of the inner chamber of some house. The smell of sulphur was here strong, and yet stronger—almost insufferable—in the streets through which I afterwards passed. Dead animals lay here and there, and amidst these signs of mortality and signposts of danger which met the eye at every turn, while the soil was still heaving beneath our feet, while Vesuvius was throwing out more violently than ever, and when at midnight only the poor who had returned had fled from their houses alarmed by another shock, I met some persons coming in with their household goods on their backs. A few steps brought me to the sea, which was boiling furiously for some distance like a cauldron—not the effect, as I at first thought, of springs of fresh water gushing up, but of volcanic action—and the smell of the gases escaping was so intense that I found it necessary for safety to cover my face with a handkerchief. I have said that the number of fugitives was 15,000 only, several thousands having returned to their houses on the confines of the bed of lava on which the greater part of Torre is built. One old woman I saw who had taken up her abode in a house which was rent from top to bottom, and almost leaning against the poles which were put up as props to the arches on which it rested. I stopped and spoke to a thriving shopkeeper, who was looking out eagerly for customers. 'What can I do?' he said; 'I have 20,000 ducats invested here, and I must look after them.' Of the carabinieri I heard only golden opinions—their praise was in every man's mouth; and I must express my opinion that even in England greater order could not have been preserved, fewer acts of violence committed, or that the Government and local authorities could have lavished more care and attention than have been displayed in Torre del Greco on this sad occasion."



THE RECENT ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY ADOLPH LERTSAND.)



ARMOURERS IN DAMASCENE AT TEBHIZONDE





BURLESQUES AND PANTOMIMES.

THE shadow of grief which fell so darkly on the close of the year affected all classes of holiday-makers, and even at the theatres there were not wanting evidences of the universal mourning. Not that there seemed to be any diminution of fun or novelty in the Christmas pieces provided for the public amusement—on the contrary, it is long since such a brilliant pantomimic season has been known; but it required the lapse of two or three days before public festivity seemed altogether consistent; and—although we were compelled to devote our space during the past week to the more immediate and mournful topic which claimed the popular regard—our notice of the burlesques and pantomimes accompanies the restoration of less painful feelings and the “full swing” of the London theatres, with their crowded audiences. It would be almost impossible, within our necessarily limited space, to do more than indicate the plots and principal scenes of some of the marvellous combinations of witicism and artistic skill. Fortunately, we are able, by means of the Engravings accompanying our notice, pictorially to represent certain “situations” which are among the most important in the various situations.

At COVENT GARDEN “The Puritan’s Daughter,” which has now reached the perfection of its representation, is followed by “Harlequin Gulliver; or, Giants and Dwarfs,” in which the celebrated stories of Gulliver’s Travels in Brobdingnag, Liliput and Laputa are pressed into the service of extravaganza. The opening represents the Temple of Pantomime out of repair, and the Genius of Pantomime dependent on the dearth of comic material for burlesque—a condition ultimately relieved by the Sisters Fun and Fancy, who, transporting the Genius to their enchanted realms, and treating her to a fairy ballet, suggest “Gulliver’s Travels” as the subject of the piece. Accordingly the performance opens with the coast of Brobdingnag, on which Mr. and Mrs. Gulliver are wrecked, reaching the shore in a small boat, and being at once struck with amazement at the enormous dimensions of the lobsters, oysters, and periwinkles found upon the beach. The fun is of course of the most extravagant kind, and in this scene all connected with the amazing size of every object encountered by the voyagers, from the crustacea who perform a fancy dance to the gigantic boots by the bedside of the Brobdingnagian householder and the oversized babies which are continually turning up during the progress of the piece. After the sojourn in Giantland the scene changes to the coast of Liliput, with a “sensation,” in which Gulliver wheels his wife across the sea on a plank à la Blondin. The adventures in Liliput are as entertaining as those of Brobdingnag, while the drilling of the tiny rifle volunteers by Mr. Gulliver and his capture of the Biefuscadian fleet meet with great success. The scene of the Blondin feat is one of the most beautiful in the piece, the moving Island of Laputa passing the wreck in a way which displays admirable management of stage effect. The transformation scene is most gorgeous from its gradual development of rich colours; and the revelation of the naiads at their toilets amongst the shells of the ocean is a beautifully-contrived finale to the opening of the pantomime.

DRURY LANE still holds its place as the very home of Christmas fun and holiday attraction; and it may well be so, since it continues to rely on the ever-witty pen and graceful fancy of Mr. E. L. Blanchard. The “overflowing houses” which greet “Harlequin and the House that Jack Built; or, Old Mother Hubbard and her Wonderful Dog,” would prove, if proof were wanting, that Old Drury can hold its own, and that the author can find ample material for genuine fun, if not in any one nursery legend, at all events by the skilful union of three. The combination into a family party of Mother Hubbard and her Dog, Dame Trot and her Cat, and the celebrated Jack, the building of whose residence produced such a strange concatenation of events, is surely a sufficient guarantee for a sparkling bowl of fun, which combines in it all sorts of ingredients, and produces an amount of hilarity proportionately delightful. Of course the plot, which is not very complicated after all, includes an entirely new story, in which the well known nursery histories are wrought into a marvellously-interesting drama with a brilliant dénouement. From the first scene, which represents the tea party in Mother Hubbard’s cottage and the rivalry between the extraordinary dog and scarcely less wonderful cat, to “The Witches’ Glen by Moonlight;” the exquisite fairy ballet, the marvellous building of Jack’s house by a host of tiny labourers, and the representation of the whole nursery legend in “the transformation,” the piece is a success, and the continued plaudits gave undoubted evidence of the public appreciation of Mr. Blanchard’s humour and Mr. Beverley’s skill.

The HAYMARKET sparkles by the resuscitation of our young friend Little Miss Muffett, who, notwithstanding her innocent occupation of “sitting on a tuffit and eating curds and whey,” contrives to fall in love with Little Boy Blue, of musical notoriety, whose performances on the horn were constantly being demanded for pastoral purposes. Like the Drury Lane extravaganza, Miss Muffett and Little Boy Blue are, happily for the public but with temporary unhappiness to themselves, associated with Old Daddy Longlegs, who, being of the Tarantula species and having occupied a former existence as a rejected lover of the youthful Muffett, takes to biting everybody, and eventually succeeds in throwing the principal characters into a deathlike lethargy only to be overcome by fairy influence. The entire piece is beautifully put upon the stage, and the fun of the situations, with the introduction of all sorts of popular extravaganzas, keeps the action going with untiring zest. The transformation scene is one of the most beautiful ever witnessed, the glories of Fairyland being developed from gigantic ears of corn which open on every side.

At the PRINCESS’ Mr. BYRON, whose name is at once associated with an almost inexhaustible power of joking and a facility for dislocating language which is positively terrible, has provided a piece so lively, genial, and provokingly extravagant, that it should suffice to keep everybody in good temper for a week at least. “Whittington and his Cat; or, Harlequin Kollywobol and the Genius of Good Humour,” is a bold and effective travesty of the original legend, in which comic and perfectly unreliable characters are brought into conjunction with the famous apprentice and embryo Lord Mayor. The ballet portion of the spectacle is centred in a beautiful scene called the Bower of Roses; while Master Haslam performs his wonderful feat à la Léopard in the banquet hall of King Kollywobol, where the dance of bayadères also takes place. The stage effects and dressing of the piece are absolutely gorgeous, and the last scene, the Silvery Willow Glade, one of the most exquisite ever witnessed.

The LYCEUM has added to its attractive “Peep o’ Day” a new reading of “Little Red Riding Hood;” and, when we say that the character is sustained by Miss Lydia Thompson, nothing need be even suggested as to its spirit and entire success. In Irish jig, claymore dance, and sailor’s hornpipe, she was full of fun and animation; and with Miss Cicely Nott, Mr. Charles Selby, and Miss Kate Saxon, the dresses designed by Mr. Alfred Crowquill, and Mr. Kingsbury’s music, made the success of the piece almost a triumph—a triumph, however, not to be separated from the truly wonderful scenery which distinguishes the Lyceum in both its representations. The panorama of the Lakes of Killarney and the View of Muckross Abbey by moonlight surpass anything of the kind ever produced, and in their truthfulness and beauty leave but little admiration for the Magic Emerald Isle, which appears in the transformation.

At the ST. JAMES’S, Mr. William Brough has provided another of those elegant and witty classical extravaganzas for which he has already become so famous. “Perseus and Andromeda; or, the Maid and the Monster,” was from the first night an entire success, and not the less so that it perhaps appeals to a class of intelligence rather above the ordinary Christmas burlesque. The classical story is maintained with consummate ability; and what to many other men would seem an almost hopeless task—the introduction of

happily-expressed jokes, telling allusions, and excruciating puns into a page or two of Lemprière—seems to be effected by the author as naturally as possible. The gorgeous tableaux which conclude the piece were wonderfully effective, and the completeness of the whole performance, both with respect to its literary merits, its handsome appointments, and the freshness of the scenery, drew from the audience on the first nights of its production a demand for author, manager, and actresses to receive the plaudits which they had so well merited.

The STRAND is still faithful to the author who can keep it open for the performance of extravaganza and burlesque from Christmas to Midsummer, and from Midsummer to Christmas again. Mr. H. J. Byron’s “Puss in a New Pair of Boots” is a burlesque extravaganza of the regular Strand pattern, crammed full of jokes, funny allusions, and puns of the wildest and maddest character. When we say that it is a regular Strand piece, it is scarcely necessary to add that it is admirably dressed and tastefully set upon the stage.

At the OLYMPIC “The King of the Merrows; or, the Prince and the Piper,” is the joint work of Mr. J. Palgrave Simpson and Mr. Burnand, in which the songs and parodies give an opportunity for Mr. Robson, as Dan the Piper, to revive all the rollicking and laughter with which he has so long been greeted by Olympic audiences, and the “Epitome of Home and Foreign News” is perhaps the greatest hit of the piece. The rare combination of colour and beauty of execution make the scenes in “The King of the Merrows” some of the best efforts of even such renowned artists as Messrs. Grieve, Telbin, and Danson.

At SADLER’S WELLS the real old genuine Christmas audience, with impatient noises, showers of orange-peel, and cries of greeting, awaited the overture of “Cherry and Fair Star; or, Harlequin and the Singing Apple, the Talking Bird, and the Dancing Waters.” As a free and sparkling parody of the tale in the Countess D’Aulnay’s book the piece was a great success, and Mr. E. L. Blanchard is equally at home in our old nursery legends or the more complicated fairy tales which belong to literature. The subject, moreover, gave ample opportunity for scenic effect, and the way in which the author has introduced burlesques of melodramatic action created roars of laughter. The basalt cavern by the corsair’s abode, the granite rocks, and the luminous forest are very beautifully executed; while the last scene of the “Amber Groves of Queen Mab’s Floral Home” is one of the fullest and most magnificent of the season.

At the SURREY the Christmas entertainment is founded on one of our first nursery rhymes, from which it requires surely all the genius of a burlesque-writer to extract anything like even the suggestion of a plot. “Hey Diddle Diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle, &c.; or, Oranges and Lemons and the Twelve Dancing Princesses,” combines all the elements of the good old extravaganza; however, and Prince Hey Diddle Diddle goes through all the usual amount of danger, supported by fairy influence. The two most beautiful scenes in the piece are “The Blooming Bower of Oranges and Lemons” and “The Fuchsia Bower of Queen Golden Star,” the former being the occasion for a charming fairy ballet. The evolutions of a corps of Amazons under Golden Star, too, are a very attractive part of the entertainment.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1862.

“TRADE OUTRAGES.”

FOR some time past the peculiar class of crime indicated in our heading has become one of continual recurrence. If it embodied the isolated acts of certain individuals it would be a matter of no greater national moment than that which attaches to malicious injuries generally, of which a certain number appears to be inevitable even in the best regulated state.

But in crimes of this kind it is impossible not to perceive that the evil is far more widely distributed, more dangerous, more cowardly and thoroughly repugnant to all those principles which are supposed to govern and guide Englishmen, than any ordinary criminal act. Sheffield has especially obtained for itself a bad pre-eminence for trade outrages. The unfortunate operative, whom necessity or the higher motive of independence there induces to act in accordance with his own views or supposed interests, may, if these be imagined to be at variance with those of certain societies, be blinded by gunpowder scattered beneath his grinding-wheel, or have his roof blown from over his head, or his wife burned to death by an improvised shell, consisting of a charged milk can, primed with a fuse, and dashed through his window at the dead of night. It is not to the actual perpetrators of such acts that remonstrance is to be addressed. They are as far beyond the arguments of reason, conscience, or justice, as the tiger, the wolf, or the venomous snake. But, unhappily, their offence designates a system—a system corrupt, cruel, vindictive, and murderous—a system which tends to degrade and to debase the minds of all brought under its influence. And such a system has, we grieve to entertain the conviction, been admitted into the institution of trades’ unions.

Nemo repente fuit turpissimus—no one ever attained criminality suddenly, says the Roman satirist. We cannot imagine that any union was ever started upon the principle of maiming, blinding, or murdering any unfortunate member of the craft who refused to comply with its decrees. The climax has been slowly, gradually, but surely arrived at. When it was first determined that a non-union man or “knobstick” was to be exposed to any kind of annoyance or injury, personal or pecuniary, at the hands of his “union” brethren, whether by insults from “pickets,” by the insertion of his name in the “black” book, or even by the non-association of his shopmates, the foundation was laid of persecution, of terrorism, and of crime. The brutal trade outrages followed as naturally and as unavoidably as digestion follows food-taking. The first step might have been avoided; but, having been once adopted, the results were inevitable.

We need not, we feel assured, point out to British workmen

not directly associated with these fearful crimes the moral reproach and obloquy which such acts have brought upon the unions in the minds of all thinking men. The most earnest and able supporter of the cause of the operatives, the intellectual, logical, and imaginative Charles Kingsley, has stepped forward to denounce such a disgrace to civilisation as those outrages convey. The enemies of the unions find in them an almost unanswerable argument against trade combinations. Hitherto the law has suffered—nay, even protected—such associations as justifiable means of defence against the possible tyranny of the more wealthy and the more powerful. But when these very associations are made the means of coercing the weak and the helpless by absolute physical torture, by danger of limb and life, how long can the most ardent of their supporters imagine that English law will suffer such to exist?

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE has been suffering from an attack of gout, but is now much better.

THE TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT in the January number of *Blackwood’s Magazine* has been to highly appreciated by her Majesty that she has ordered twelve copies of it to be struck off separately and forwarded to her.

LORD PALMERSTON is now so far recovered from the attack of gout under which he has suffered for the last week or two as to be able to take carriage exercise. The noble Lord has never been prevented from attending to public business.

COUNT EYNAUD DE CAVOUR, nephew of the illustrious statesman deceased, is engaged in collecting for publication all documents and papers written by his uncle since 1830.

THE DAUGHTER OF THE EARL OF YARBOROUGH is to be married to the Earl of Eglinton. A marriage is arranged between Colonel the Hon. J. Somerset Calhorne, son of Lord Calhorne and grandson of the Duke of Beaufort, and Mrs. Frederick Crewe, only daughter of Captain and Mrs. Frederick Chamier.

ALL DIFFERENCES HAVING BEEN DEFINITELY ARRANGED, Her Majesty’s Theatre will open, under the management of Mlle. Sarolta and M. Bigger, with a company in several important instances quite new to the London public.

THE LIVERPOOL SHIP *Prince of the Seas* was totally destroyed by fire at Melbourne on the 24th of October last.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has determined to have the pharmacopœia of the empire revised, and the new codes will most probably appear simultaneously with that which is soon to be issued by the Royal College of Physicians of London.

THE STRIKE at the building for the Great Exhibition has been settled by the employers yielding to the demand of the men of 6d. per day additional wages.

THE MADRID JOURNALS of the 29th ult. state that very considerable quantities of snow have fallen in the neighbourhood of Malaga—a rare circumstance in that part of the kingdom.

ADVICES FROM CANADA to the 21st ult. report active warlike preparations by the Government.

A SEVERE SHOCK OF EARTHQUAKE was felt a few days ago at Agiam, in Croatia. The churches and several other public edifices suffered materially, and many chimneys fell, but without occasioning any more serious disaster.

THE NEW CENSUS gives Berlin a population of 565,000—an increase of 45,000 in ten years.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY COMPANY have determined on adopting the system of warming railway-carriages by means of the waste steam from the engine, which has been recently successfully carried into effect on the London and North-Western line.

TWO MILLION VISITING-CARDS passed through the Paris Post Office during three days last week, besides the ordinary letters.

THE PRINCE OF ROMBINO, a refugee from Rome, has been raised to the dignity of Senator of the kingdom of Italy, and received the cross of Commander of the Royal Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus.

IT IS STATED THAT MESSRS. GLASS, ELLIOT, and Co. have tendered to the English Government to lay a cable from Milford Haven to Halifax by next July for £700,000, guaranteeing its efficiency for one year.

THE GRAND COUNCIL OF ZURICH has decided on suppressing all laws which still oppose the free establishment of Jews in the canton. Persons of that persuasion are henceforth to be placed on a footing of complete equality with all other citizens.

IT IS CURRENTLY REPORTED in Nottingham that ten of the leading members of the Liberal party who invited Lord Lincoln to contest the borough have subscribed £100 each towards the noble Lord’s election expenses.

A STORY is told of a Quaker volunteer who was in a Virginian skirmish. Coming to very close quarters with a secessionist, he remarked, “Friend, ‘tis very unfortunate, but thou standest just where I am going to shoot,” and, blazing away, down came his man.

A PENITENT THIEF has forwarded fifteen stamps to a shopkeeper in Sheffield from whom he stole some cigars several years since.

A BREWER’S DRAYMAN died in the Royal Free Hospital the other day, at the age of thirty-one, who had been in the habit of drinking from ten to twelve quarts of beer per day for the last ten years.

A 300-POUNDER ARMSTRONG GUN, manufactured at Elswick, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has been forwarded to Woolwich to be subjected to a series of experiments at Shoeburyness in the presence of the Ordnance Select Committee. This weapon is constructed on the muzzle-loading principle. It weighs 12 tons 8 cwt.

THE DISTRESS which exists at Wigan in consequence of the dulness of trade has occasioned the holding of a public meeting, at which the Mayor presided. The members for the borough were also present, and about £1000 was raised in the room to assist in alleviating the distress.

THE MANAGING COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE, seeing the success which has attended the steam fire-engine of Messrs. Shand and Mason at the various fires it has assisted in extinguishing, have determined to have three more of the same description manufactured and stationed in different parts of the metropolis.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES at WASHINGTON has passed a measure prohibiting the return of slaves to rebel masters.

MR. HENRY HODSON, a farmer, near Aston, was killed by a train on the North London Railway last week while walking on the line. He was aged seventy-seven. The accident was witnessed by his daughter. The body was literally smashed to pieces.

A FEW DAYS SINCE A NOBLE LADY, the wife of a noble Lord connected with the county of Norfolk, complained to the family governess that she did not dress in a becoming style, and, her Ladyship’s temper having been roused, she proceeded to inflict condign punishment on the young lady. The affair has since been hushed up by the payment of £100.

SOME WORKMEN engaged in sinking a well at Wolverhampton the other evening when leaving work put a quantity of gunpowder in the firegate. Next morning, forgetting that the powder was there, they lighted the fire. The powder exploded, and several persons were severely injured.

A MARRIAGE such as is not frequently witnessed was celebrated a few days ago at the Hotel de Ville at Brussels. Two musical artists, both deprived of sight, M. Dubois and Mlle. Petitjean, were united, and among the witnesses was M. Redenbach, the blind member of the Chamber of Representatives.

A PRISONER at the Montgomery Quarter Sessions made a violent attack on the Chairman, who was at the moment passing sentence on him. The prisoner, a tramping blacksmith, took a large stone out of his pocket and flung it with great force, uttering a threatening phrase at the same time. Fortunately, he missed his aim. For the offence he will be tried at the next assizes.

AMONG the prizes shot for lately by the Stamford Volunteers was a goose, which was awarded “for the lowest number of points”—the joke being greatly relished by the members of the corps, as, we hope, the goose was also by its winner, Corporal Parker.

MILLS, BRIGHTON, BARKER, and JONES contended for the ten-mile challenge cup, at Hackney-rick, on Monday, when Brighton was the conqueror. Deerfoot has been compelled to resign the cup in consequence of not remaining long enough in England to entitle him to retain it.

AN “OPPOSITION BUILDING,” to hold some of the goods rejected from the International Exhibition, was talked of some time ago without the smallest idea of such a thing being feasible. There is, however, said to be a scheme of this kind afoot. Disappointed exhibitors are said to have raised a sum of £50,000 and to be organising an independent display.

WE UNDERSTAND that the Address in the House of Commons will be moved by Mr. Portman, member for Dorsetshire, and seconded by Mr. Western Wood, member for the City of London.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL has consented to preside at the anniversary festival of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, Victoria Park, which is arranged to take place on Wednesday, the 19th of March.

THE CASE OF DR. ROWLAND WILLIAMS was resumed in the Court of Arches on Tuesday, when Mr. Fitzjames Stephens continued his arguments in defence of Dr. Williams, and endeavoured to show that the rev. gentleman had not exceeded the limits of discussion authorised by the Church of England.

JOSEPH TOMLINSON AND ISAAC AND JAMES WATSON, the two former of Chesterfield and the latter of Belper, have been committed for trial by the magistrates at Rotherham Courthouse on the charge of, blowing up two nailmakers' workshops at Thorpe Hesley on the 21st of December last.

ON SATURDAY, at the Institut de France, Paris, M. Mignet gave an oration in praise of the late Mr. Hallam, author of "The Constitutional History of England." M. Mignet was very pathetic in his allusions to Mr. Hallam's loss of his two sons, and Tennyson's elegy upon the eldest of them. M. Mignet was warmly applauded.

GENERAL TURR has just arrived in Paris, accompanied by his wife.

THE ORDER OF ST. MAURICE has been recently conferred by the King of Italy on Mr. Thomas A. Trollope, son of the authoress of "Widow Barnaby," and brother to the author of "Framley Parsonage," and who is well known in Italy as the writer of "Filippo Strozzi" and "Tuscany in '49 and '59."

HER MAJESTY'S SHIP RANGER captured early in November last a large barque (name and nation unknown) with about 850 negroes on board. The prize was taken to St. Helena on the 18th of that month, where the slaves have been landed and lodged, under the care of the proper Government officer, at the station in Rupert's Valley.

ONE MONTH WITH ANOTHER, the exports from Great Britain and Ireland to France have doubled during the first quarter of free trade; and, if the remaining portion of the first free-trade year between the countries be similar, we shall have added to our national commerce an exportation of the value of six millions sterling.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

DID it ever occur to your readers to suspect that for years past "a foreign Cabinet (Russia) has been attempting to gain the mastery of England by enabling a home Minister (Lord Palmerston) to effect the mastery of the Crown"? I apprehend not. No such idea ever entered into their heads, I am persuaded. Still less would they suspect that the only man who stood between this treasonable alliance and success was the late Prince Consort. And yet the *Free Press* newspaper, the monthly "journal of the Foreign Affairs Committee," in an article in the January number, more than insinuates that this was so, and that now the "Queen remains alone" to resist and oppose the treasonable scheme, and that the "empire is destitute of stay." All this, of course, will be new and astonishing to your readers. But there is more than this behind—much more; something so dreadful that I hardly like to allude to it. But it has been published, and therefore there can be no harm in noticing the matter. Gentle readers, then, know that, according to the *Free Press*, there is strong probability that the Prince Consort was poisoned—died, not of gastric fever, but of "the sickness of princes." You start, as well you may; but the *Free Press* has elaborately proved, to its own satisfaction, that, if there be not evidence of the fact, there are certainly grounds for suspicion; and, further, that the *Times* was privy to the crime—knew it beforehand—and must therefore, one would think, have been in complicity with the criminals. For the *Free Press* says that the *Times* published an article on Saturday, which was written on Friday, showing a foreknowledge of the event, which article "could not have appeared had the Prince been intended to live." On that day, the *Free Press* goes on to say, "the Queen was unconscious of the danger of her husband when she went out to drive. The *Times* for that day omits the 'Court Circular,' and thus suppresses the ignorance of the Queen of the danger of her husband; and, as the *Times* knew the Prince was in danger, so do subsequent articles upon his malady show that it was acquainted with that malady, which the physicians were not." And, further, the *Free Press* goes on to tell us that it was the *Times* that dictated "the manner of interment," which dictation was followed. "There has been no embalming of the body, no lying in state: the period has been hastened;" and then it adds, "circumstances, all extraordinary and inexplicable in themselves, but which come to have a dark significance after the antecedent announcement of suspicions." And, lastly, the writer proceeds to show that at this particular juncture of our affairs it was specially desirable, in order that the designs of our enemies may be carried out, that the Prince Consort should be removed. Such is the tenor of this foolish article in the *Free Press*. And now, readers, do you believe a word of it? Do you suspect for a moment that our noble Prince was poisoned? that the *Times* newspaper knew that he was not to live? that it suppressed the "Court Circular" that the crime might be perpetrated without hindrance? that Lord Palmerston deliberately meditates a "mastery of the Crown"? that Russia meditates a mastery of England, and that Lord Palmerston is the tool, if not the accomplice, of the Czar? No, not one of you. Indeed, I venture to assert that there are not ten men in the empire, or in the world, who would give credence to this wild, stupid, wicked calumny.

And now, perhaps, you will ask, "What is this *Free Press*?" Well, it is a monthly paper, established to watch over our foreign affairs, and is generally supposed to be under the control and inspiration of Mr. David Urquhart. But I cannot believe that this vile article is the production of his pen; for, though the style is something like his, and the idea that Palmerston has long been playing into the hand of Russia is essentially his own, Mr. Urquhart, I am persuaded, is too much of a gentleman and an Englishman to write such abominable, such slanderous, poisonous stuff. But, if this be so, ought not Mr. Urquhart, for the sake of his character, if for no higher reason, at once to cut his connection with the paper and proclaim everywhere to the world that the article was written without his sanction or knowledge? The husband of the Queen poisoned! Palmerston a traitor! the eminent doctors either accomplices in the crime or so ignorant that they could not detect it! the editors and writers of an English newspaper aware of the murder beforehand, and, of course, in complicity with the murderers! Ugh! every Englishman's gorge rises at the thought, and every honest man longs to kick the slanderer who could pen such trash.

Every frequenter of the lobby of the House of Commons must have seen passing into the house a tall old Irishman, somewhat bent with age, with strongly-marked features, and rather slovenly dress, and wondered who he could be. For in truth he did not look much like a senator. Well, this gentleman was Dr. Boyd, the member for Coleraine, and news has come that he is dead. He was generally called "Doctor" in the House, but whether he was an M.D. or LL.D. I know not. The Doctor was of "high Conservative principles," and had such influence in Coleraine that he could always get himself returned, and, as report says, any one else. He first came into Parliament in 1842, and sat till 1847, when he accepted the Chiltern Hundreds to allow Lord Naas to take the seat. Lord Naas sat till 1857, when he was returned for Cockermouth, and then Dr. Boyd resumed his place without opposition. Lord Naas used to represent Kildare, but when he accepted the post of Chief Secretary for Ireland in March, 1852, a Mr. Cogan jumped into his seat, and Lord Naas was without one, and must, of course, have resigned his office if Dr. Boyd had not kindly come to his rescue.

Sir Harvey Bruce, a Liberal, who contested the borough of Coleraine unsuccessfully in 1842 and 1847, is again announced as a candidate. It is also rumoured that Mr. Lawson, the Irish Attorney-General, is to come forward. But, if a Conservative makes his appearance, I apprehend no Liberal will stand a chance, for this little, active, bustling place has for some years past been very Conservative, and Irish relationships to the present Government are not such as make it less so just now.

Poor Mr. Lawson! for two years he has been Irish Attorney-General, and without a seat in Parliament. He has wandered east, west, north and south, and yet can find no resting-place for the sole of his foot; and now the predicament is getting serious. Cardwell is a good lawyer, and got on pretty well without an Irish law-officer at his elbow; but what will Sir Robert Peel do? Nor would the case be mended if Mr. Lawson were to retire, for in the House there is no one to take his place. Mr. Isaac Butt, if he had played his cards well, might have had the post; but he is out of the question.

Another death has occurred since I last wrote. Sir Charles Merrik Burrell has passed away at last, at the advanced age of eighty-seven. Until the last year or two Sir Charles showed no outward signs of feebleness or decay, but walked into the House with firm and steady step, and looked like a man of seventy rather than the octogenarian that he was, and until quite lately used to ride briskly on horseback. Sir Charles was about the middle height, and very thin; I don't think that he had a pound of superfluous flesh on his closely-knit frame; indeed, he had a great horror of becoming fat. He was once heard to say to a somewhat corpulent friend who expressed a wish that he might live as long as Sir Charles, "You will not, though, unless you get rid of that fat; you cannot with such a weight expect to run a long race." Sir Charles was the father of the House. He came into Parliament for Shoreham in 1806, and has sat for that borough ever since—nearly fifty-six years. On whom the honour now descends I know not. Lord Palmerston entered the house in 1807, but from December, 1834, when he was rejected by South Hants, until June, 1835, when he was elected by Tiverton, his Lordship was out of Parliament, and thus the continuity of his membership was broken. Still, I think he ought to have the belt.

Father Daly—"Old Hard-cheek," as he has been appropriately called—the garrulous, indefatigable director of the Galway Packet Company, and Harbour Commissioner, is suspended. He was warned, repeatedly, that all the bustling rushing to and fro from Galway to London, from the Harbour Board to the altar, was incompatible with his duties as P.P.; but he refused to listen to the warnings, and now the blow which has long been contemplated is struck, and he is unfrocked for a time, until he shall humble himself before his Bishop and promise to sin no more. He talks of appealing to Rome; but an appeal will be all in vain. Better submit at once, Father; perform penance and return repentant and reconciled to the arms of your loving parent. Walking arm-in-arm with Mr. Roebuck—holding honourable members by the button in the lobby—seizing hold of Irish secretaries and pouring into their ears the long tale of all your woes—assisting deputations—canvassing for votes—and chattering eloquently and passionately in the dining-room and smokery—are pleasant occupations, no doubt, with expenses all paid; but they are not compatible with the duties of a P.P. At least, so thinks your Bishop and the majority of your respectable parishioners who have moved the right reverend Prelate to the infliction of this blow.

The death of the Earl of Yarborough takes Lord Worsley, who will succeed to the earldom, out of the House of Commons, and creates a vacancy for Grimshy.

Parliament was further prorogued on Tuesday until the 6th of February, and it is the general opinion at the public offices that it will not meet earlier.

Sir Hugh Cairns has deservedly received great praise for his speech in defence of Mr. Windham, and specially for his peroration, which "brought down the house." In this peroration he spoke of the persons opposed to him as wishing to inflict on his client a doom as horrible as that imposed by Mezentius, who chained the dead to the living. This was a very strong point, and evoked thunders of applause; but the audience in the court were probably not aware that the idea did not belong to Sir Hugh Cairns, but was originated by a novel-writer called Walter Scott. In the introductory chapter to "The Chronicles of the Canongate," a doctor, speaking to Old Croftangry of one of his patients, says, "I have heard our poor friend, in one of the most eloquent of his pleadings, give a description of this very disease, which he compared to the tortures inflicted by Mezentius when he chained the dead to the living. The soul, he said, is imprisoned in its dungeon of flesh, and, though retaining its natural and unalienable properties, can no more exert them than the captive inclosed within a prison-house can act as a free agent." The disease of which Sir Walter speaks is, however, not insanity, but paralysis.

Mr. Mark Lemon's lecture, "About London," was given for the first time on Monday, and was successful. The Gallery of Illustration was crammed, and the applause was frequent. The lecture is full of antiquarian lore and instruction, pleasantly conveyed. Mr. Lemon's delivery is measured and distinct; but his audience lose from the fact that he reads the lecture, and they thus miss his play of face. The heavier matter is relieved with occasional jests and quaint sayings, which were highly relished.

Is there any rule against picture-dealers writing English? Mr. Faed's picture "From Dawn to Sunset" is advertised as having "caused much attention" when exhibited at the Academy; and Mr. Holman Hunt's "Light of the World" is on view, "prior to its being returned to its private possessor, and final exclusion from public exhibition altogether."

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

Macmillan's, though by no means so pedantic as at first starting, still occupies its peculiar position among periodicals, and is decidedly written for a class rather than for the general public. In the present number, for instance, the buyer at the railway-stalls of average capacity will find but two articles which will interest him; and one of these—"Ravenshoe," Mr. Henry Kingsley's serial novel—would be unenjoyable if he had not read previous instalments. The other article is by Mr. Charles Collins, on "Beggars," and is smart, vivacious, and true. The verses on the Englishman murdered at Mooltan by Dewan Moolraj are not very good—neither so melodious nor so thoughtful as Mr. Munby's reverie "By Temple Bar." Mr. Ludlow contributes a paper on the international law of the sea, as regards the Trent difficulty; Professor Kelland an astronomical article; and Mr. Hughes a Christmas tale. A political summary seems to think that the Tory progress is ascribable to the fact that the party has advanced with all old Tory colours carefully concealed.

The *St. James's* opens the new year very well. The best of its contents is a short poem by Miss Mulock, called "A Common Story;" and Mr. T. Hood's "Boat Song for the Naval Reserve" has a rough, hearty music of its own. A gracefully-written and learned article by Sir Emerson Tennent, on the "Pilgrim's Shell," is also noticeable; and so is a paper, "At a Pantomime," by Mr. Fairholt; but I may remark that the same subject has been frequently very much better dealt with. Mr. A. Fonblanque begins a new story this month.

Mr. Ainsworth is again in the field. This number of *Bentley's Miscellany* contains the commencement of a story called "The Lord Mayor of London"—a most poetic subject.

THE CULTIVATION OF COTTON.—A parcel of Egyptian cotton seed, sent to Jamaica in September last, was planted in various parts of that island in October and the beginning of November. It is now everywhere in full blossom, and will be fit to pick at the end of this month. The Jamaica Cotton Company have sent out gins, hydraulic-presses, and bagging, and hope that, besides what was planted in the May preceding (and which is now being picked for the first crop), within five months from the time this seed was sent out from Southampton the cotton will be shipped to this country. As there is already a supply of cotton in hand for six months, it is possible to get very large quantities grown in Jamaica to meet the demand before the present stock is exhausted; so that all that is wanting to secure a supply is for the Lancashire capitalists and manufacturers to put their own shoulders to the wheel without waiting for Hercules.

THE MEXICAN EXPEDITION.

A LETTER from Martinique of Dec. 12 announces the arrival at St. Pierre of the French steam-ship *Masséna*, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Jurien de la Gravière, of the steam-frigates *Guerrière*, *Ardente*, and *Astrée*, and of the steam-avisos *Marceau*. These vessels left Teneriffe on Nov. 25. The second division of the squadron, consisting of the steam-frigate *Montezuma* (Commander de Russel) and the vessels with the matériel of the expeditionary corps, were expected at Martinique about Dec. 15. It was supposed that the whole squadron would be able to sail for the Havannah on the 20th, and that the allied forces would be at Vera Cruz between the 1st and 5th of January. According to advices from the Havannah of Dec. 7, Vera Cruz had been evacuated by the Mexicans, who had carried off the guns of the fortifications to Puebla and Mexico. On the 8th of December the Spanish forces took possession of the fortress of St. Jean d'Ulloa without firing a shot. The Spanish Government has authorised Gen. Serrano, Captain-General of Cuba, to establish a regular service of steamers between Vera Cruz, Havannah, St. Domingo, and Porto Rico. The Spanish portion of the expedition, which, as already stated in these columns, had started without waiting for the British and French contingents, will wait, it is said, for the arrival of General Prim, who has been appointed to the command, before taking any decided steps. The precipitate action of the Spanish authorities has been the subject of much animadversion, and it is feared that Spain entertains sinister designs on Mexico, which may ultimately lead to serious complications.

Another feature of the affair is the reported conclusion of a treaty between Mexico and the Federal States of North America, whereby the latter are to furnish Mexico with funds to meet the demands of England and France, in return for which certain commercial privileges and the right to transport troops across Mexican territory are to be conceded to the Government at Washington. The object ascribed to Mr. Lincoln in concluding this treaty is to prevent the interference of the three Powers in Mexico, and so carry out the celebrated Monroe doctrine of entirely excluding Europe from every part of American soil. One thing, however, may well make us question the existence of the alleged treaty, or at least justify a doubt of its execution, and that is the important query, Where is the money to come from? Considering the present expenditure of the Federal Government, simple people may well be excused for thinking that the Cabinet of Washington has just now enough to do to pay its own debts without undertaking to discharge those of Mexico. At all events, one would suppose that 11,000,000 dollars—the sum said to be promised—would be a very convenient little "plum" in Mr. Secretary Chase's hands just at present.

The Paris papers announce that advices have been received from Mexico to the effect that M. Dubois de Saligny, the French representative to the Mexican Government, had handed an ultimatum to President Juárez, allowing him five days' reflection to acquiesce in the demands of France. No reply has as yet been given.

According to advices received from Mexico by the Spanish Government, President Juárez was resolved to defend himself to the last. He hoped to collect an army of about 18,000 men, to be divided into three corps—the first under the command of General Quijana, the second under General Ampudia, and the third under the orders of General Uruga. The chief command of the troops is to be intrusted to General Doblado. His head quarters will be in the city of Mexico. Juárez has ordered Puebla to be defended, where the corps-d'armée of General Ampudia would have arrived on Dec. 10. General Gasset, who was at Vera Cruz on the 8th of December, was not to commence operations in the interior before the arrival of General Prim, Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish troops, and to await the arrival of the French and English expeditionary corps.

VERA CRUZ.

It was determined that the English, French, and Spanish fleets destined to accomplish the intervention in Mexico should at once proceed to Vera Cruz, of which we this week publish a View, there to demand reparation from the Government for the indignities too long sustained by their countrymen.

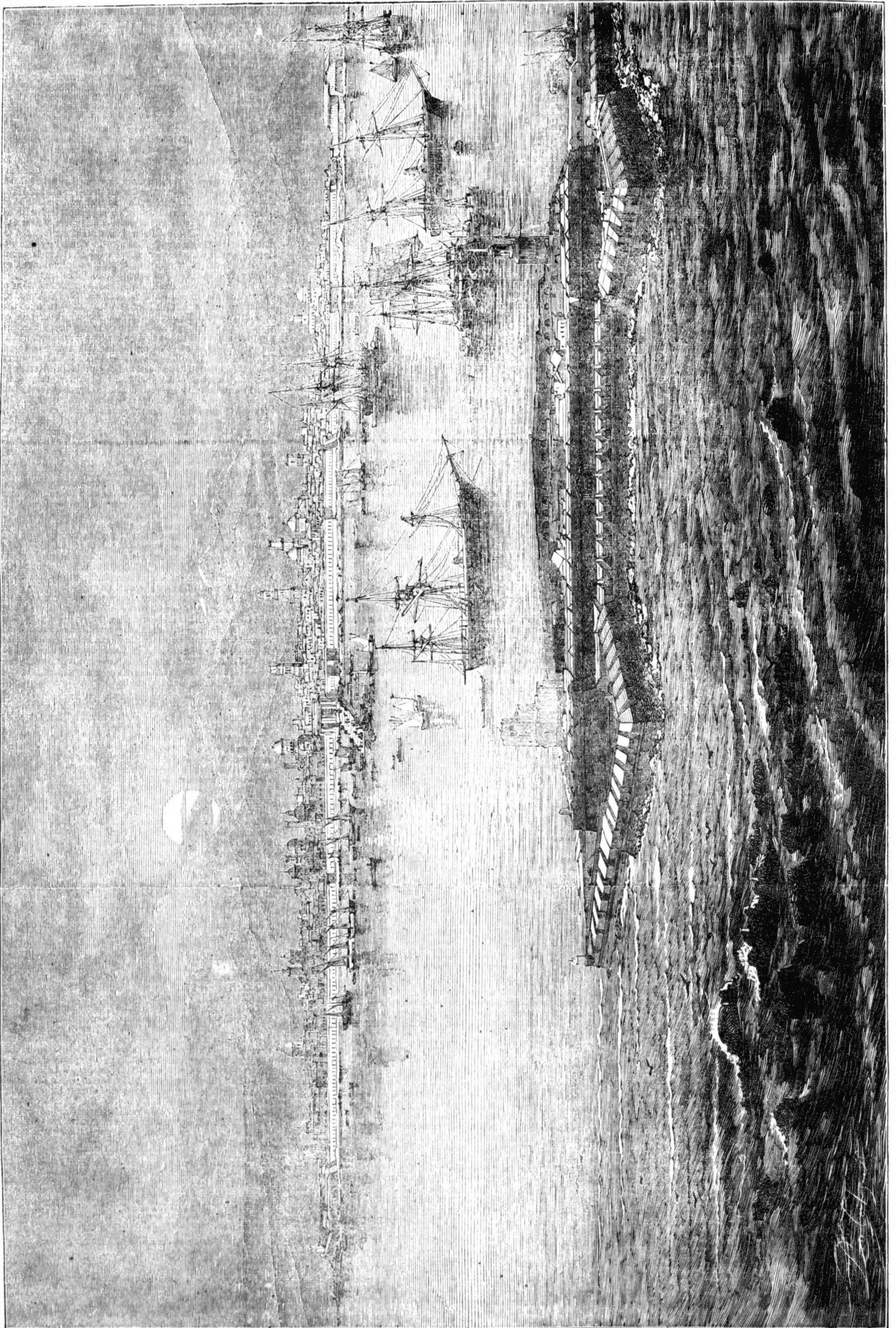
The department of Vera Cruz, of which the city of the same name is the capital, consists of that long narrow belt of country on the south-west part of the Gulf of Mexico—its length about 600 miles and its breadth no more than eighty. On those low, flat, sandy shores the streams are obstructed by bars at their very mouths or are navigable only for a short distance, while the great lagoons lie along the coast; one of them, Tampico, communicating by two mouths with the gulf, and thus forming the island of Taspan.

It is only towards the interior, after passing the low, pestilential seashore, that the magnificent forests, the pastures, the fields of cane or corn, and, further yet, the wild mountain regions, are discovered. Here the natural wealth of the country is considerable, not only in coffee, sugar, cotton, fruits, dyewoods, and timber, but in horned cattle, sheep, and horses. The city of Vera Cruz, however, is situated on a marshy plain on the south-west shore of the gulf, and about 180 miles east of Mexico. The appearance of the place from the sea is remarkably imposing, as the entire city is commanded by the famous fortress of San Juan d'Ulloa, which is built upon an island some half mile from the shore. The city is composed of several squares and regular streets, with houses constructed of coral limestone, and frequently rising to three stories, with a flat roof at the top and a wooden balcony. There are sixteen churches in Vera Cruz, only about six of which are now in use, although their cupolas are a very striking feature in any distant view of the town. There is also a fine Government House; and three or four dilapidated monasteries complete the list of public buildings.

The harbour, or rather roadstead, for it is really little more than a roadstead between the town and the castle, has but an insecure anchorage, and affords very little protection from the violent winds from the north; while, in addition to this, the unhealthiness of the climate and an insufficient supply of water render the place disadvantageous as a commercial port; Tampico being far superior in these respects. On the castle (San Juan d'Ulloa) there has been erected a brilliant revolving light seventy-nine feet above the sea; and the fortress itself was considered almost impregnable till it was taken by the French in 1829, and by the United States of America in 1847. The city of Vera Cruz itself was founded on the spot where Cortes first landed to the conquest of Mexico in 1519, and was converted into a city in 1615. The population of the place scarcely exceeds 7000 or 8000.

A VOLUNTEER MEMORIAL TO THE LATE LORD HERBERT.—Mr. Wadham Locke, a county magistrate, residing at Seend House, near Devizes, has just made the following proposal, on behalf of himself and his friends, to the council of the Wiltshire County Rifle Association—namely, to present to the association a gold cup of the value of one hundred guineas, to be called "The Herbert Memorial Champion Challenge Cup," to be shot for annually, on Roundway-down, near Devizes, until it shall be won three years in succession by the same individual, to be open to all enrolled members of all the volunteer corps in the county of Wilts and their honorary members. The offer of Mr. Locke has been accepted, and arrangements are being made for carrying out the project.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT AT ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—On Friday afternoon week a frightful accident took place in St. Martin's Hall, Long-acre, which, it will be recollected, was burnt down some months ago, but which has been since rebuilt. Several workmen were engaged on a suspending scaffolding, slung to enable them to fix a heavy iron ventilator in the roof, when one of the horizontal poles on which the boarding rested snapped and six of the persons so employed were thrown with great violence to the ground. The foreman, named Edward Stevens, caught one of the brackets surrounding the ventilator, and was able by a great effort to keep his hold for three minutes, when he was reached with a ladder and rescued. The men who had fallen to the ground were found to have been frightfully injured. They were placed upon stretchers, and five were conveyed to King's College Hospital and one to Charing-cross Hospital. Of the former, Richard Wood, a gasfitter, died at five o'clock, and Patrick Cogan shortly before ten o'clock. Another, Walter Savy, a carpenter, expired on Saturday. The three others, though severely injured, are progressing favourably towards recovery.



CONVENT OF ST. FRANCIS.

FORT ST. JEAN D'ULLOA.

LANDING-PLACE.

ST. DOMINGO.

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE.

FORT SANTIAGO.

VIEW OF VERA CRUZ, MEXICO.

THE NEW FOUNTAIN, ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.

Among the various improvements which have taken place within the limits of old London, there are few more pleasing than the new and elegant fountain lately placed in the quadrangle of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The suggestion was first made by the present treasurer, W. F. White, Esq., and warmly espoused by the governors and directors of this valuable institution. The quadrangle, once so gloomy, now assumes a pleasant, cheerful aspect by the introduction of this fountain and the little parterres surrounding it. In the summer months it is particularly agreeable to each of the poor invalids whose improved state of health enables them to walk round the square. The form of the fountain—as will be seen from our Engraving—is very bold; the basin is about sixteen feet in diameter, and nearly two feet and a half deep. From this basin rises a square plinth, upon which is a base with its corners chamfered so as to give it an octagonal form. On each of the four faces of this base is a bracket, upon which stands a chubby boy, partly draped, bending under the weight of a large shell which each supports. From the centre of this shell or shells—for there are four conjoined—rises a vase decorated with dolphins' heads, from each of which, when the water is turned on, issue streams, no doubt much to the annoyance of the gold and silver finny tribe in the basin below.

This fountain was designed and executed by Mr. John Thomas, of the Alpha-road, in Portland stone, and reflects much credit upon his taste, as well as upon that of the treasurer and governors of the institution which it adorns.

A SCRAMBLE THROUGH THE "DITCH."

As the business that placed me on the knife-board of a twopenny omnibus on the morning of Sunday last was never consummated, it will not be necessary for me to explain its nature. Somehow or another I never yet undertook an affair that involved a ride outside an omnibus and went straight through with it. In the course of the journey something is sure to "turn up" inducing me to alight miles short of my destination. On this occasion the "something" made its appearance in the shape of two young gentlemen with hairy caps and dog-fighting countenances seated on each side of the driver. Of the nature of their previous conversation I am, of course, ignorant; but when I had occupied my seat some two or three minutes one young gentleman bawled to the other young gentleman, through the bulky drab-coated partition that separated them—

"D'ye hear, Jerry?"

"Hullo!"

"What are yer goin' in for?"

"'Cordin how things is. A benjamin, if it 'ull run to it; if not, a pair of slacks and a belcher. What's your mark?"

"My mark is mud-plungers, which, if you don't think it's time, look here, Jerry!"

So saying, the speaker shot forward one of his legs, which Jerry glanced at, and then delivered himself of an observation expressive of approval of the "marks" selected by his friend. Here the mysterious dialogue closed, and nothing more was said for a short time by either party, when Jerry, addressing the driver, said,

"Guv'ner, put us down at the Ditch."

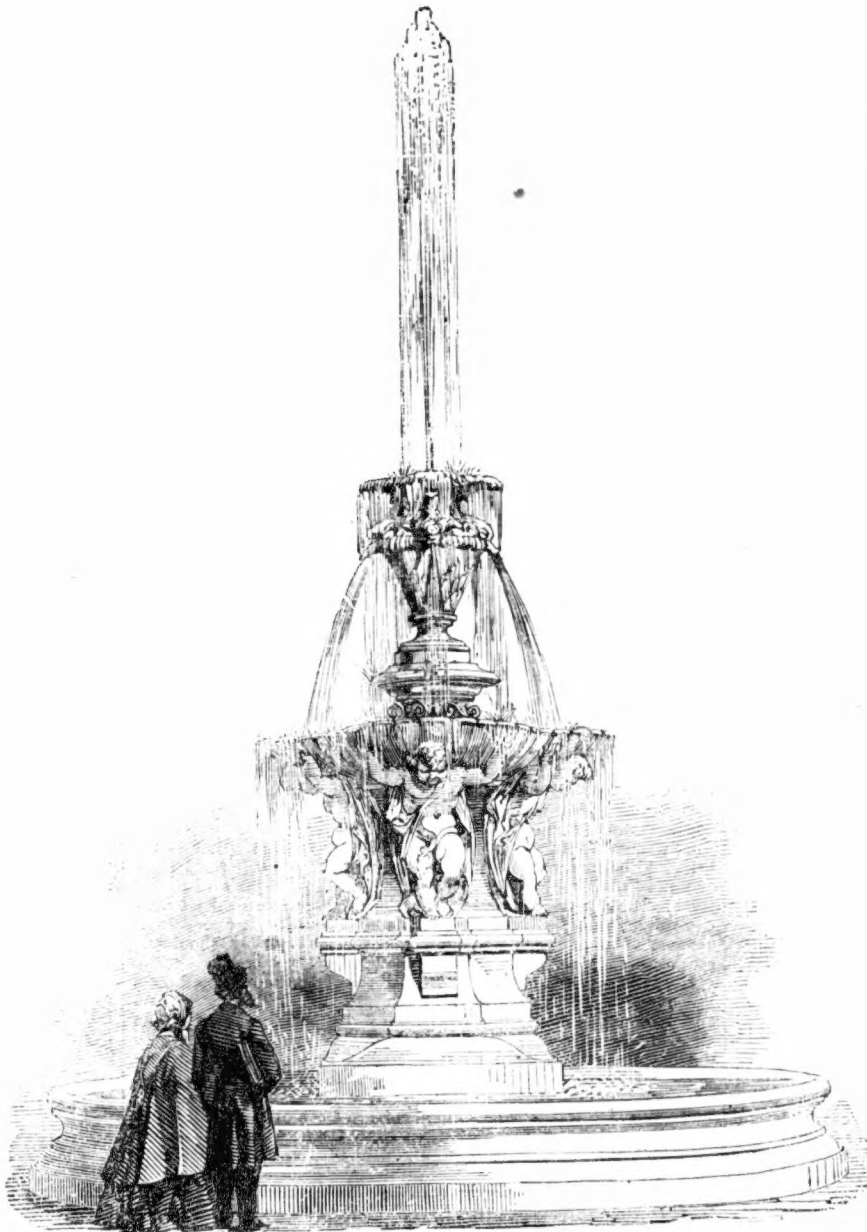
If another stroke was wanted to whet my curiosity to hair-splitting sharpness this extraordinary request furnished it. What ditch was it these singular individuals were about to enter that might or might not run to a "benjamin," but which at least might be depended on to yield "slacks," and "belchers," and "mud-plungers"? Were the mysterious couple fishermen to an aquarium-furnisher, and were

these the "trade" terms for various species of tadpoles and water-beetles? This could hardly be, the action of Jerry's friend fairly admitting of the inference that "mud-plungers" at least were something pertaining to the legs or feet. Clearly foreseeing that there would be no more peace for me till the riddle was solved, I boldly requested the assiduous driver to put me, too, down at the "Ditch."

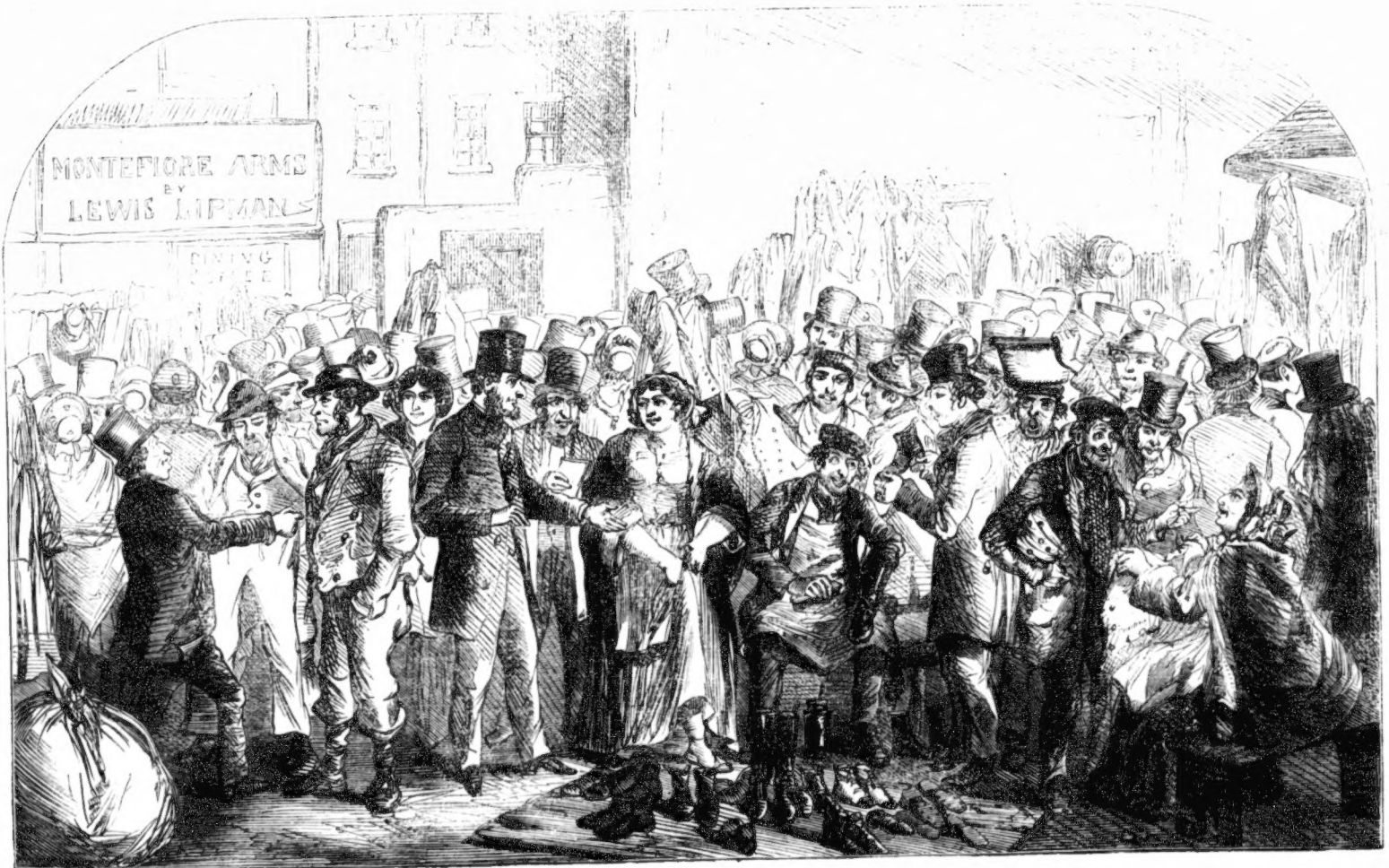
My musing as to where on earth I was going was cut short by the vehicle halting at the commencement of Bishopsgate-street and the hairy cap suddenly vanishing over the side. "Here you are, Sir," said the driver. "Exactly," replied I. "But where—?"

moment pastors were preaching and organs pealing solemn tunes, and that but the steam of a bushel of coals parted this Babel from sunny meadows and still, shady lanes, and larks carolling against the serene, blue sky, and the aisles of ivy-clad village, churches resounding with the quaint music of bass viol and hautboy and the sweet voices of little country children—when I thought so, it became evident that, after all, the "Ditch" was a rather curious place, and that I could not do better than further explore its mysteries.

Deeper into the "Ditch," and I came upon a deep crevice in a vast wall of coats and trousers, christened Cutler-street; and, as the



NEW FOUNTAIN IN THE QUADRANGLE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.



LONDON SKETCHES, NO. 15.—MOLES-SQUARE, HOUNSDITCH.

people were floating into the crevice in a pretty thick stream, I placed myself within its influence and was carried along. A deaf person looking on would suppose that, instead of a public market place where customers were welcome, Cutler-street was private property, the invasion of which should be strenuously resisted. At every shop-door I passed, a hawk-eyed Hebrew pounced upon me, and, plucking at the sleeve or tails of my coat, refused to release me till I had purchased an "adob tschsterfelt," or, at the very least, a waistcoat. As fast as one was shaken off, another, nothing daunted, swooped down, and, taking me in all his talons, renewed the assault.

Besides clothes, there appeared to be nothing vendible in Cutler-street except certain hideous things borne in little glass tanks on the heads of the venders. The things in question (which at first sight I took to be alive) are of the colour of unpolished amber and of the shape of monstrous slugs—just as damp and gelatinous; and, though they lay quite still, one could not avoid the disagreeable idea that they were merely taking a rest, and would commence to crawl again presently. I am happy to state that I was never once solicited to purchase the yellow things; indeed, from all I could see, they are fit food only for Jews, who devour them with all the avidity and evident relish displayed by a hot-mouthed horse while munching a carrot. I was afterwards informed that the articles in the glass tanks were cucumbers; but this I can hardly believe, unless, indeed, they were old cucumbers, purchased in Mr. Isaacs' ordinary way, and vamped up and doctored as he doctors a boy's faded green jacket.

By-the-by, the deeper I penetrated the many ramifications of the "Ditch," I discovered that pickles of every description were curiously abundant. Valuable space was given up to stalls devoted to their sale, and round the stalls were constantly congregated flocks of Jews and Gentiles, helping themselves with their dirty fingers out of little cups, and crunching and munching acidulated cauliflower, and cabbage, and onions, and smacking their lips as they tilted back their heads and drained the vessels to the last drops. Jew boys wriggled their way through the press with a jar in one hand and a wooden spoon in the other, and several little saucers in their jacket pockets, the smashing of which was, as far as possible, guarded against by the use of the wooden spoon driver's-stick-wise. When a Jew boy found a respondent to his melodious call, the customer and he anchored to the nearest steadfast thing, and between them they released a saucer and got at the mouth of the jar; then, amid the jostle, and uproar, and fierce elbowing, the bargain was consummated.

It seems to me that the prevalence of pickle-eating among the Jews is a subject worth inquiring into. Tipsy men fly to pickles, and there are other sources of intoxication than the spirit-vat or beer-barrel. I have not the least doubt that if you turned a squad of Jews into the Bank of England cellars, and left them there till the morning, nothing more would result than that every man of them would be found mad Mammon-drunk, some lying here, some there, each hugging a bagful, with, perhaps, one or two suffocated in the goldbins. The nature of their business in the "Ditch" being utterly incompatible with the least inclination to heaviness, they may fly to pickles as a refresher, as some Christian people indulge in snuff.

In the very heart of the foul maze is a piece of land about fifty yards long and forty wide. It is the wretchedest scrap of an acre possible to conceive; the unpaved portion is black and sodden, and full of ruts and holes, and where paving is attempted appear scraps and shreds of ill-fitting refuse stone, the jagged ends and sides of which impede the feet, and between the crevices in wet weather little jets of filthy ooze exude at every footfall. Three sides of the dreary square are bounded by tall, grimy walls, to the surface of which still adhere scraps of the ancient carcases long ago fallen or felled to the ground. Looking up at the gloomy walls, and down at the dismal soil, it is by no means hard to imagine the place the site of a past-age charnel-house, or refuge for lepers; or that here were dug the deep pits at the edges of which were tilted the plague-carts. Though the land so closely adjoins other portions meted out by the foot, and so valuable that odd inches even represent guineas per annum, you see it lying blank and idle without surprise; and you account for the fact of no "to let" announcement being visible by supposing the board long ago reared and long ago rotted, and all idea of building on so desolate a spot for ever abandoned.

Such suppositions would, however, be far from correct; how far, I am half afraid to say. As to the eligibility of the plot for building purposes, it has only to be tendered to-morrow morning, and by the end of the week brick-carts will be blocking up Petticoat-lane and Cutler-street, and the chatter of the bargainers be drowned by the chinks of the trowel. But were you to offer to take it on a twenty-one years' lease and agree to erect a palace thereon, you would hardly get this waste land. Waste land indeed! It is Thomas Titler's head-quarters!—a slice of the fattest of California's gold-ground, solely and wholly the property of a single digger, Moses by name. He lets the whole area in little patches varying in size from six to thirty square feet to venders of twopenny waistcoats, and shilling coats, and nice penny trousers. I have been out with Moses, or, rather, with Moses's head man, digging in this auriferous region. Digger Moses needs no heavier picks than the dainty golden one that, publicly applied to his big white teeth, announces to the hungry mob that he has lately breakfasted. Of spade, or cradle, or pannikin he has no need, and a perfect crushing-machine is furnished by his despotic will. He keeps no books, gives no receipts. He just wears a loose coat, the inner side of the left breast of which is one tremendous pocket; and, accompanied by a man who carries a scrap of paper and a lead pencil, he slowly elbows his way through the press, presenting his open hand, delicately white and beringed, to every blousy stillkeeper.

Sometimes it is as little as sixpence, and sometimes as much as half-a-crown, that salutes his waiting palm; it is just according to the space occupied, and the eyes of Mr. Moses are so experienced, they have travelled over that rich soil so often, that he can tell to the breadth of a shoelace or the standing room of a trestle-stump how much he should take. Should any one offer short rent, Mr. Moses does not trouble himself to argue the matter; he merely frowns and fills the finger and thumb of his money-taking hand impatiently, and it is enough. The other threepence is drawn from the pocket of the stillkeeper, albeit it is accompanied by a wrench and a groan almost as pitiable as that which attends a dental extraction.

Never a word is heard concerning arrears, for the best of all reasons: Mr. Moses gives no trust, or, at most, for no longer time than a single hour. In at least nineteen cases in every twenty, the hands of giver and receiver were extended almost simultaneously; sometimes, however, the expectant palm was met by a blank look, and the laconic observation, "I ain't took as much;" whereon Mr. Moses glanced over his shoulder at the man with the paper and pencil, and he made a note of the circumstance. In an hour or so the defaulting-list goes the round of the market once more, and then it is either pay or seize.

I made many endeavours to count the number of Mr. Moses's renters, but failed, chiefly on account of their restless habits and the universal custom of leaving a stall under the eye of a neighbour, while a customer, who had at first made a bid that was refused, was hotly pursued through the mob, the said customer being signalled to stop both by loudly-uttered "Hi's!" and waving the disputed garment flagwise. Of the number of "holdings" there I am ignorant; indeed, they must be indefinite, as there is not a single bulk, or rail, or shutter provided for the accommodation of the windows; and what is a single holding this Sunday may be broken into five next. The amount of Mr. Moses's weekly collections, however, I ascertain to average seventy pounds, or something like three thousand four hundred pounds per annum.

One might have walked with little fear of tumbling on the heads

of those who thronged Moses-square. I state this as a simple fact. I have seen the same stated of other congregations, and have in a few instances seen the mobs referred to, and am bound to confess that I would much rather have resigned the feat to the "Indiarubber Brothers" or the "Bounding Spiders of the Rocky Mountains" than attempted it myself. In the square here, however, the heads were almost as closely packed as cobblestones on a causeway—heads in hats, heads in caps, in bonnets, in handkerchiefs, and in nothing but the tousled mats provided by a bountiful Nature; hair, the sleek, dirty, undertucked crop of the honest rookery "swell"; the rampant hair of the lately-released gaol-bird, still wrathful against the gaol-barber's shears, and not to be appeased by any quantity of oil; villainous mouse-coloured hair; the variegated crops of paper-stainers and workers in indigo; and flaming red Irish heads, looking the more as though they were on fire—or at the least smouldering—from the smoke of the stumpy pipe wreathing amongst it.

As to the goods exposed for sale in this particular quarter, it must "be seen to be believed," as saith the writer of marvels at per line. As, however, it is extremely improbable that the good reader may ever have an opportunity of "seeing," he must accept the testimony of mine eyes, as here recorded. In Moses-square were sold as clothing rags, literally, and not by any means according to my Lady Gemant's maid's rendering of the term; not cast-offs from wardrobes, but absolute finders plucked from the marine-store dealers' scales; women's "bodies" and skirts, faded, tattered, and dirty enough to soil the hands; bonnets whilom "dashers" of the first water, but now mere wrecks of satin and velvet (some still sporting the stump of a feather, and suggestive of a dissipated fighting fowl done up, but determined to die "game"); trousers highly polished from knee to waistband, and with the inner lining gapping through chinks innumerable; and coats and waistcoats mangy, and brown, and buttonless.

Who buys the rags? Of what use are they when bought? Watch that ragged bricklayer's labourer in treaty with the Jew woman for that parody on a jacket, and learn the secret. The garment in question is a fustian; it is "out" at the elbows, rent beneath the arms, hideously greasy at the cuffs and collars—too far gone, indeed, even for a beggar's wear. You glance at the ragged man inspecting it—turning it to this light and that, and debating the price anxiously—and fail to be convinced that he will better his condition by completing the purchase. He, however, knows better. The garment the new purchase is intended to supersede is worn out thoroughly; the very bones of the fabric of which it is composed are decayed and rotten, and a patch placed to cover a hole would fall away of its own weight; whereas the forlorn-looking thing for which he is bargaining with the Jew woman was lately the property of a thoughtless bricklayer—a widower may be, with no one to mend for him—and his heir apparent can see "no end" of wear in the article, after his careful "old woman" has washed and mended it. Besides, what is the price? Eighteenpence is all that is demanded by the Jewess, which signifies that the selling price is sixpence. The buyer's discarded jacket will fetch twopence "at the scale," and serve to furnish thread and patch pieces; so that for a little sixpence and a considerable amount of industry the man may cover his brawny shoulders, corned through being so everlastingly "put to the wheel."

It was in this section of the "Ditch" that I once more encountered my omnibus friends Jerry and Co. I wonder I knew them again; indeed, I don't think I should if it had not been for Co. As for Jerry, he wore over his flannel jacket a sturdy great-coat with immoderate buttons; and by the satisfied expression of his countenance I was assured that his highest ambition was attained—it had "run to it," and the big-buttoned garment was the coveted "benjamin." What "mud-plungers" are I can only guess. All I know about the matter is, that when I saw Co. he was seated on the verge of the kennel, fitting a mighty pair of iron-clamped boots to his naked feet.

The articles one is importuned to buy during a scramble through the "Ditch" surpass belief. Every vender addresses you with an earnestness apparently born of the belief that the sole aim of your visit is to deal with him, and he makes up to you with a "Now, then, Mister!" and with an air and gesture implying how lucky you both are to have met. The novel character of his wares never embarrasses the dealer, and he is evidently under the impression that the offer of them does not, or should not, embarrass you. I was persecuted half the length of Phill's-buildings by an individual anxious to dispose of an old Dutch clock, and the other half by a German Jew, with an accord to sell on the one hand, and on the other by a fellow with a hen blackbird, with a cleverly-painted yellow beak, "last year's bird, and in full pipe, swelp me."

Had I bought all the stockings that were offered me I might have set up as an hosier; all the studs, and rings, and chains, and pins, I might have stocked a brassfoundry; all the shirts, and leather laces, and crockeryware, and boxes of dominoes, and birdcages, and smuggled cigars, and chamois leather, I should have been consigned by my friends to a lunatic asylum forthwith. Had I purchased but a tithe of the number of silk pocket-handkerchiefs that were brought under my notice, I might, probably, have got myself into serious trouble.

Not that the peripatetic seller of silk handkerchiefs peculiar to the "Ditch" is invariably a thief, or a companion of thieves. In nine cases out of ten he is simply a humbug. Slung round his waist and hidden by the lapets of his coat are half-a-dozen flashy squares of Brummagem-like fabric, the wholesale price of which is about sixpence each. Whenever this dodger sees a "party" whom by his appearance he judges to be rogue or fool enough for his purpose, he just touches him on the shoulder to attract his attention, and then, quick as lightning, lifts a corner of his skirt, and exposes the supposed-to-be stolen goods. If the green one bites, and asks in a whisper "How much?" the dodger whips one off the string, and rapidly ejaculates "Two bob; it's the best of the lot, but the hottest, so I wants to drop it;" which means that in consideration of its being the last stolen, and consequently most likely to get the holder into trouble, it shall be sold at the low price of two shillings. If the guilty goose gives but half the sum asked, the dodger comes off with a swinging profit.

J. G.

CONCERTS.

THE triumphant success of the sisters Carlotta and Barbara Marchisio is the greater for the many severe discouragements against which it has been achieved. Instead of making their London debut in the summer, when the town is full, and at the Italian Opera, where they had been looked for, these young ladies made their first acquaintance with an English audience in the depth of our northern winter, and at an evening concert, the performance of which, though extensive and varied, contained the name of but one vocalist of high repute, putting aside their own. All this, however, is little compared with a concatenation of circumstances which terribly jeopardised that high position assumed—and fairly assumed—on behalf of the sisters Marchisio. Even their celebrity was against them. At first, and long ago, the fame of their performances reached us in terms legitimate enough; but the repetition of language entirely made up of superlatives grew more and more suspicious the longer these wonders delayed their arrival here. So much of a particular kind of talk marvellously resembled a huge puff preliminary. Your true judge will shrink from the least sign of a desire to force an object on his taste; and there certainly was a feeling among critics in St. James's Hall on the evening of Thursday week which almost amounted to resistance of a supposed attempt of that sort. It is needless to enter into an examination of the causes which then seemed likely to operate against the success of the sisters Marchisio. All apprehension of failure, or of that qualified success which occasionally rewards the efforts of mediocrity, was dispelled before they had concluded their opening

duet. Chilly and mistrustful critics, who steadfastly refrained from joining in the somewhat exuberant welcome which greeted the appearance of the ladies on the platform, were won over by sheer force of transcendent merit, and applauded as lustily at the close as if they had come prepared to aid an organised *claque*. Never—and we say this in all sincerity—have we heard that entrancing duet. "Ebben! a te ferisce," sung to such perfection as by the sisters Marchisio. It was a well-chosen test of ability, for they are so thoroughly up in Rossinian music as to have gained the admiration of Rossini himself, that great composer having written a duet specially for their finely-matched voices. Mlle. Carlotta, the soprano, has an organ of such compass and natural depth that she might easily sing the music of Arsace in the opera, though the brilliant resonance of her tone fits her more completely for the part of Semiramide. The voice of her sister is a strong, deep, rich contralto, free from the slightest harshness, and most sympathetic when exerted most. In fact, there is this quality about the singing of both sisters, that the listener feels perfectly safe in their execution of all that they have to go through. They have acquired the highest pitch of excellence in singing together, and carry an exquisitely-blended effect through diminuendo and crescendo passages, while their ensemble in florid staccato parts is marvellously certain. With all this vocal perfection, the sisters Marchisio blend a very evident dramatic faculty. They have the reputation of being excellent tragedians, and they went far to establish their title in the mere concert-singing at St. James's Hall. From some fault somewhere, though we could not make sure whether it was with the singers or with the orchestra, the septet from "Don Giovanni," in which the sisters Marchisio took part, went off in a far from satisfactory manner; but their duets, in addition to that from "Semiramide," were sung without a hitch or shadow of blemish.

We have observed that but one other vocalist of great celebrity sang on this occasion. Signor Ciampi was that bright particular star; but we must hasten to add that the audience received much pleasure from the singing of ladies and gentlemen with whose names they had been previously unacquainted. In fact, there was nothing to censure in the whole concert, long as it was. Mlle. Elena Conran created a favourable impression by her singing of "Casta diva," in which a fine soprano voice was exercised with skill and artistic feeling. Mlle. Dario also displayed abilities of a high order; and Mr. Bolton, a young tenor who has won a name and place at the lyric theatres of Spain and Portugal, achieved an undoubted success in his first introduction to a London audience. Signor Eugenio Cosselli, also a stranger to concert-goers in the English metropolis, proved to be a baritone of cultivated power and taste. Mr. Swift, a tenor who is making his way into popularity, sang "Love sounds the alarm," from "Acis and Galatea," with "good emphasis and discretion," as well as with a very pleasing voice and musical style.

The solo instrumentalists were Arthur Napoleon (whether Mr. or Monsieur we hardly know how to call him, though he appeared as "Master" but a few months ago, when he was an infant phenomenon); M. Vieuxtemps, whose violin-playing leaves nothing to be desired; and M. Lamoury, a violoncellist, who made his debut with all the auspices of a popular career.

A second concert in honour of the sisters Marchisio was given by Mr. Land on Saturday morning, when, in addition to the vocal and instrumental force we have enumerated, Miss Arabella Goddard gave her valuable assistance.

CURIOUS CASE OF BREACH OF PROMISE.—LOVE AT SIXTY-SIX.

A CASE of breach of promise of marriage was tried at the Liverpool Assizes last week which proves that the important question "At what age is a woman too old to get married?" still remains unanswered. The plaintiff, Miss Barbara Watson, was a dressmaker, arrived at the mature age of sixty years, and residing at Canonley Woodside, near Skipton. The defendant was a wealthy farmer, who for the last thirty years has resided next door to the house in which the plaintiff lives, he, too, having somewhat passed his grand meridian, being sixty-six years of age. The courtship was alleged to have been carried on for eleven years, but in the summer of the past year the defendant proved faithless, and took unto himself a younger bride, in the person of his own servant, who was just half the age of the plaintiff.

To establish the plaintiff's case the following witnesses were called:—Martha Watson said she was the sister of the plaintiff, and sixty-five years of age. Her sister and the defendant had been courting for ten years. They used to be a good deal together in the garden. On one occasion, five or six years ago, she heard him say to the plaintiff, "I'm determined to be married, Barbara, and if you won't have me somebody else shall." Plaintiff said, "I have no objections." She had seen the defendant give the plaintiff tickets for tea parties. Upon another occasion he said, "Barbara, I think we'll order our wedding now," and she said she was quite willing it should take place. She got a new shawl, and her old bonnet was trimmed up. The defendant got married on the 15th of June, 1861.

Cross-examined: I went to the wedding party, and enjoyed myself pretty well. I came home soon, and did not stop dancing all night. My sister is sixty years old. I cannot say that she was not born on the 15th of September, 1799. I don't remember her calling him "My little duck," or "My dear old duck." He never courted me.

Carpenter Wilson said he was a weaver residing in Canonley. Had known plaintiff and defendant ever since he was a boy. Used to go courting a young lady named Carr, who lived with the Watsons. Had often seen defendant there courting Barbara (laughter). They seemed very loving. Was very fond of talking to defendant about their respective sweethearts (laughter). There was a very nice apple-tree in the garden, close to the wall of the house. Had seen them standing together underneath it. They were sweethearts, to be sure (laughter). Miss Carr left six years since, and he had not been much to the house since, and had not seen the defendant there since then.

Cross-examined: Miss Carr and I have not got married, but we may be yet. It is ten years since we began. I have had two children by her, and she cherished them on me, and I believe I am the father of them (laughter). I never went away to avoid proceedings. I have been under the apple-tree with Miss Carr scores of times.

Re-examined: I am sure the plaintiff would have made him a better wife than what he's got. They'd have looked a better pair (laughter).

Francis Shuttleworth: I have known plaintiff and defendant more than twenty years. I have not seen them together so very often. On one occasion I went to the house to see the defendant's nephew. I stepped to the window and peeped in. I saw the plaintiff sitting on the defendant's knee by the fireside; he had his arm round her. I felt as queer as aught (great laughter). They seemed very loving. They were a very nice couple.

Cross-examined: This was about three years ago.

A witness named Whittaker stated that the defendant was a gentleman farmer, and reputed to be a wealthy man. A clerk to the attorney for the plaintiff was called to prove that when he served the writ upon the defendant he seemed anxious to settle the matter, and inquired what damages the plaintiff wanted.

Mr. Aspinall, for the defendant, put it to the jury that, if a marriage had been seriously contemplated between the plaintiff and defendant, there was nothing to prevent its taking place years ago; that their intimacy was the natural result of their having been next-door neighbours for so many years; and that it was only in consequence of his marrying somebody else that any importance had been attached to his previous familiarity with the plaintiff.

Mr. Justice Crompton having summed up, the jury found for the plaintiff—damages £150.

THE TRENT OUTRAGE PLANNED AT WASHINGTON.—The whole scheme of the capture of the Trent, whatever the amount of assertion to the contrary, was planned under Seward's supervision in Washington. In the latter part of October it was announced that the Nashville had run the blockade, with Mason and Slidell on board. One or more Government vessels were dispatched to intercept her. In the meantime the steamship Columbia arrived in New York, stating that the Theodora had landed the Commissioners at Cardenas, Cuba, and that the San Jacinto was lying at Santiago, on the south side of Cuba. A message was immediately dispatched in a steamer to Havannah, and also by the return trip of the Columbia, to the Consul at that city, to order Captain Wilks to capture the Commissioners at all hazards on board of whatever vessel found. The Consul secretly conveyed these orders to Captain Wilks at Santiago, who immediately proceeded round the east end of Cuba to the Bahamas, and lay in wait for the Trent, which he captured as already known. The American Consul at Havannah was only the agent of Seward, and carried out his instructions, which he cannot and dare not deny.—Morning Herald Correspondent.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE Windham case continues to be the great legal topic of the day. The case for the petitioners on the commission has terminated, and Sir Hugh Cairns, for the defence, has delivered one of the most lucid, comprehensive, temperate, and conclusive orations addressed to a jury for many years. The counsel for the prosecution has, it appears, taken umbrage at certain comments made by the press during the progress of this case. These comments the Master in Lunacy has concurred in reprobating. We suppose that we fall in some slight degree under this censure, but our readers may remember that we have from the first treated this as an exceptional case. At the outset we started from the assumption that all the facts alleged in Mr. Chambers's opening might be incontrovertible, and that, notwithstanding, the case for the prosecution might—nay, ought—to fail. All our brethren of the press whose comments we have as yet seen have taken a precisely similar view. Now, doing this is a very different thing to commenting upon a case bit by bit, and thereby prejudicing any contradiction or adverse statements on the other side. The common sense of the press has at once appreciated the distinction which the Master in Lunacy, of whom we speak with all due respect, apparently fails to see. Had there been a fair *prima facie* case of lunacy or unsound mind made out, there would have been no need for Mr. Chambers or Mr. Warren to remind the press of its duty. *Audi alteram partem* is an excellent rule in some cases. But in others it may be a superfluity. Many a cause has been stopped by a Judge recommending a nonsuit upon the mere opening of plaintiff's counsel. In such cases what need to listen to rebutting evidence? One opinion as to this case has been expressed by the press, by the public in all grades of conversational society, and by the applause of the audiences in the court. To pretend to keep this a secret is a mere hypocritical affectation. However, it is sufficient for us that future abstinence from comment is desired by a judicial authority in the matter. To that desire we bow with respect for authority and order.

At the Westminster Police Court Miss Walrond, daughter of Lady Janet Walrond, appeared last week as defendant upon a summons charging her with detaining a terrier, the property of Miss Norton, the niece of the Hon. G. C. Norton. Mr. Arnold, understanding that the animal in dispute was a gift, alleged on the one hand and denied on the other, suggested that the decision should be left to a mutual friend. However, this considerate advice was disregarded, and a public exhibition followed of two aristocratic young ladies swearing point blank in contradiction to each other for the sake of a miserable little creature of the kind fashionably designated as a "taw-yaw-dawg." The story ran thus—Miss Norton, in happier days, rejoiced in the friendship of Miss Walrond and the possession of the taw-yaw. Miss Norton's uncle is then brought upon the scene, and falls ill. Miss Norton wishes to comfort her uncle by paying him a visit, but, as the taw-yaw is not so desirable a companion as a niece for an invalid, requests Miss Walrond to take care of it. Miss Walrond accepts the charge. This, however, is only one side of the tale. On the other, Miss Walrond swears that the brute was absolutely given to her by Miss Norton, in these exact words, "I, Caroline Norton, give you this dog." This seems rather a precise and formal speech from one young lady to another; but Miss Norton, having an uncle a barrister, may have acquired a habit of talking in strict legal phraseology. But in a month afterwards Miss Norton demanded the return of the animal, and, coming to Lady Walrond's while the family were at dinner, "kicked up a great row," says Miss Walrond. "She brought a charwoman and a servant with her, and about a hundred boys." Miss Norton's influence among the boys must be great to enlist so large a company of juvenile volunteers at such a short notice in such a cause. "She made a great disturbance by continually knocking and ringing at the hall door." The volunteers, of whom another witness, a dressmaker, says there were three or four hundred, aided with loud cries of "Give the lady her dog!" until they were finally driven off by a body of police, consisting of one. All this Mr. Arnold, the magistrate, had to hear, and, having heard, and having besides heard the gift corroborated by Lady Janet, dismissed the summons. Possession of the taw-yaw, therefore, remains with Miss Walrond, who may nevertheless be sued for it in another court. Had the case gone the other way, the decision would have been final. How delightful is the little glimpse of aristocratic life and manners thus afforded to an admiring public! Bless both the ladies, say we; and may they each soon gain a husband—a more worthy object of affection than the disputed "taw-yaw-dawg."

Frederick Franklin, late secretary to a branch society of the "Friendly Ironfounders," was summoned, at Southwark, for detaining certain books of the society. Defendant alleged that he had destroyed them to prevent an exposure of the society's affairs by reason of the probable use of the books as waste paper. Mr. Combe, the magistrate, said if this defence were true, defendant had acted wrongly in destroying the books, and therefore fined him £10, in default of his restoring one which was legally proved to have been in his possession. Defendant paid the fine; but Mr. Combe ordered him to enter into recognisances to produce the book on the following day, and, in default, sentenced him to three months in the House of Correction. The book was not then produced, and the warrant was issued.

Our respected contemporary the *Weekly Dispatch* scarcely does us justice in its last impression in the matter of Alderman Humphrey and "Zadkiel." After mentioning the announcement in our *Lounger's* column two weeks since, in which our correspondent simply alluded to a prevalent piece of gossip, and, indeed, requested further information as to the facts, the *Dispatch* reproaches Alderman Humphrey's interference in the matter in the same spirit and almost in the same terms as those of one or two lines of remark appended to our notice of the affair at Guildhall. Perhaps, however, the observations of our contemporary were written concurrently with our own and published before he had seen our police report. Still, in justice to ourselves, we beg to direct his attention thereto. This, we are convinced by the friendly tenor of his mention of us, he will not fail to do.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

ARSON.—Timothy Sutton, eighteen, tinman, was indicted for feloniously setting fire to the shop of Charles Davis. There was also another indictment against the prisoner for stealing a quantity of pictures from the same prosecutor, to which he pleaded "Guilty." The prosecutor lived in Broad-street, Ratcliff-highway, and prisoner was his apprentice, sometimes sleeping upon the premises. Upon the 24th of December the prosecutor left the place and locked it up, leaving no one in charge, but gave the keys to the prisoner; and on the evening of the 26th of December a policeman who was on duty near the prosecutor's house saw flames in the shop and sparks falling through into the basement. He gave an alarm, and the house was found to be on fire in two distinct places, one in the shop and the other in the first floor over the shop, having evidently been set on fire at the same time. The firemen extinguished the fire, but not before damage to the extent of £150 was done. The prosecutor instructed the police, and it was found that a great number of valuable paintings had been stolen from the premises. The prisoner was then questioned, and said that some man had come to him and told him that he wanted the keys of the premises, and gave him half a sovereign; that he then gave him the keys, and that he knew nothing about the fire. Upon further investigation, however, it appeared that subsequently to the fire the prisoner had pawned, sold, and left with a friend of his the pictures belonging to the prosecutor.

The prisoner declined to ask witnesses any questions, and the jury found him Guilty.

The Recorder sentenced him to four years' penal servitude.

POT-STEALING.—Mary Rooney, who appeared to be about fifty, was indicted for stealing three quart pots. She pleaded "Guilty," and no less than eight convictions for pot-stealing were proved against her. When asked if she had any thing to say, she whined out, "Oh, an' please your Lordship, I never do it but when I've had a drop of drink, and let me off now, and I won't do it again. Be merciful, and I'll repent and be good."

His Lordship said the Court felt it to be its duty to pass upon her a sentence which would prevent her doing the same thing for some time to come. This was an offence of a most mischievous character, as all knew for what purposes publicans' pots were stolen, to make counterfeit money. Publicans' pots were of necessity much exposed, and their property must be protected. Here was a woman eight times convicted of the offence; she had a sentence of twelve months, and now asked for mercy as she had done it through drink. The Court had made up its mind what to do with her, and as a warning to pot-stealers the sentence upon her was three years' penal servitude.

POLICE.

DARING THIEVES.—John Lindsay, twenty-one, James Melvin, Mary Melvin, twenty-two, and Alice Gardner, twenty-one, were brought before Mr. Selfe, charged with stealing linen from a dwelling-house, No. 27, Trafalgar-square, Stepney.

It appeared that the house was occupied by a man and his wife, named Goss. On the first floor was an empty room in which was some wet linen. The empty room was entered on Thursday night, or early on Friday morning, and the wet linen removed. A tablecloth was also abstracted from the back room. Two police-constables were called in. They examined the premises, and came to the conclusion that some man had entered the unoccupied room by climbing up the front of the house, in which he must have been assisted by some one in the street below. There were marks on the window-sill, footmarks on the top of the street door, and the wall appeared to have been scratched by the toe of a man's boot. The prisoners, who are all well known to the police, and were living together in what might be truly called a den of thieves, in York-place, near the Commercial Gasworks, were suspected of the robbery. The police repaired to the house in York-place, from which they had taken many thieves before, and apprehended the prisoners. Melvin managed to run away. He was pursued and brought back, handcuffed. After some circumstantial evidence was given affecting three of the prisoners.

Mr. Selfe directed Alice Gardner to leave the dock, and she was examined as a witness. She said that she lived at 16, York-place, kept by "Mother Macdonald." Melvin and his wife were dwelling in the same house. She had cohabited with Lindsay. On Friday morning last he and James Melvin brought home two bundles of linen, and said she must get rid of the property. In the course of the same day she took three shirts to a woman named Mayo, who kept a "leaving-shop" at No. 6, North-street, Whitechapel, and obtained a loan of 3s. 4d. upon them. She also pawned three chemises and a tablecloth in the Commercial-road. Melvin and Lindsay both asked her to get rid of the property.

The articles mentioned by the witnesses were produced and identified by Mrs. Goss as her property.

Mr. Selfe inquired whether the woman Melvin was married to the man by her side, and she replied in the affirmative. Her husband, not knowing the object of the magistrate's question, exclaimed, "You must say no."

The officers connected with the case said that the male prisoners were convicted thieves, and Melvin had undergone a sentence of penal servitude for four years.

The male prisoners pleaded guilty, and Mr. Selfe sentenced them to six months' imprisonment and hard labour, and discharged Mary Melvin. The magistrate said that he should not have disposed of the case summarily as he had done if he thought there had been any chance of a conviction at the Sessions. There was no doubt the two men were old in crime, but if he had committed them for trial it was probable Gardner would have been tampered with and they would have escaped altogether. He advised Alice Gardner to go into the workhouse with her child. She had been the means of getting rid of plunder in other cases, and had been made the tool of artful thieves. She would do no good out of the workhouse, and had better obtain an asylum there as early as possible.

THE WINDHAM CASE.

On Friday, the 3rd inst., Sir Hugh Cairns, on behalf of the respondent, commenced the defence. We can only give our readers a few extracts from the learned gentleman's address:—

It was important to observe that Lord Alfred Hervey had admitted that Mr. Windham was generally rational in conversation, and that he never saw a letter from him which contained any indication of unsoundness of mind. Lord Alfred said, in effect, that he could tell nothing which would justify a verdict against Mr. Windham, and that his opinion of his incompetency was formed, not upon what he had seen or heard, but what he had read in affidavits. The Marquis of Bristol had admitted that when Mr. Windham dined with him and his family he behaved himself remarkably well. Such were the only two out of twenty-one petitioners who had been produced as witnesses.

Upon the evidence of Windham's habits Sir Hugh said:—

Mr. Cheale had spoken of the slandering at the mouth attributed to Mr. Windham, but the jury would be satisfied, by casts of the mouth, that there was exactly such a peculiarity in its formation as would account, strictly and accurately, for the difficulty in closing it, and for the consequent effects in the discharge of the saliva and in the sound of the voice.

The evidence of Dr. Johnstone, of Norwich, was perfectly childish. It amounted simply to this, that at a certain ball Mr. Windham trod upon Sir John Boileau's toes, and that he did not seem to be as much pained as Sir J. Boileau; and that at another ball he danced until the

perspiration streamed down his face, and then he fanned himself with his pocket-handkerchief. Next came Mr. Scott, a man of theory, solicitor and metaphysician, of Aylesbury. His opinion as to the insanity of Mr. Windham was formed mainly upon the fact that on one occasion, when he and Mr. Peatfield were engaged in a profound discussion upon the state of the soul after death, Mr. Windham assumed a vacant expression, fell asleep, and did not awake until the controversy was over.

Alluding to the timber contract, the learned gentleman said:—

The timber contract, about which so much had been said, would be explained to their entire satisfaction. Its terms had been misunderstood and misrepresented, and he mentioned the fact that the contractors, Messrs. Lawrence and Fry, most respectable timber-merchants in Broad-street, had offered to transfer the contract to Gen. Windham, or anybody else, upon payment of the £1000 which they had given to Mr. Windham.

The following produced loud cheers in court:—

The gentlemen appointed to examine him had a series of questions supplied to them on which to test Mr. Windham, rendering it not a medical examination, but the rack of the Inquisition. The grounds on which the medical gentlemen had come to the conclusion that Mr. Windham was of unsound mind were, he contended, totally insufficient. He attributed the strong opinions which Dr. Mayo had expressed to the fact that he was the champion and standard-bearer of the theory of moral insanity, which, however useful it might be as a philosophical system, was strongly condemned by the Bench and Bar of England, and was opposed to the law of the country. [The Master remarked that it was strongly condemned by him.] The learned counsel next indicated the nature of the evidence, medical and general, which he should submit to the consideration of the jury, and made a powerful appeal in favour of the alleged lunacy, severely denouncing the conduct of the petitioners.

The learned gentleman concluded as follows:—

Other men have passed their youth in excess, in riot in debauchery. They have purchased, by an expenditure of health and property, a conviction of their folly, and they have settled down into active, useful, if not brilliant members of society. Other men have had youthful friends and immorality, over which the kind hands of friends and relatives have gently and tenderly drawn the veil of concealment and oblivion. Mr. Windham has been received on his entrance into public life by a panoramic view unfolded by his relatives to the public eye, in which have been portrayed, not the events of his life, but all such isolated acts as ingenuity or perversion could twist into the appearance of that which is hideous and obscene. And what is the object for which this has been done? That a young man, the heir to a considerable property and to an illustrious name, who from his boyhood upwards has gone out and come in; who has acted and been treated by all about him as capable and sane; with whom his relatives have dealt, and bargained, and negotiated upon a footing of perfect equality; who has been deliberately allowed by them to go out into the world, and to enter into contracts, including among them the most momentous contract of life, should now be adjudged incapable of taking care of himself, in order that his persecutors should be authorised to administer his estate. In one of the books which Mr. Windham used to read at Eton there is a story told of a tyrant in ancient days who invented for his prisoners the terrible torture of chaining a living man to a lifeless body, leaving the living to die, and both to decompose together.

"Mortui quoniam etiam jungat corpora vivis,
Compensans etiamque manus atque oculus ora,
Tormenti genus; et sanie taboque fluentes
Complexu in misero, longa scilicet morte necabit."

That, in truth, was a melancholy and terrible fate; but I own that seems to me a severer punishment, and a more cruel, because a more exquisite and a more enduring torture, which would consign a warm and living soul, with all its sensibilities and affections, with all its hopes and aspirations, with all its powers of enjoying life and everything that makes life valuable, to the icy and corpse-like embrace of legal incapacity and lunatic restraint. Such, gentlemen, is the torture which his relatives have prepared for Mr. Windham, and of that torture they ask you to be the ministrants and agents. But, gentlemen, I appeal from them to you. From them, from whom I can anticipate no mercy, I appeal to you, from whom I can confidently expect justice. I implore of you, gentlemen, to sweep away the cobwebs which theory and prejudice, which partisanship and ignorance, which interest and falsehood have woven around this case, and to show by your verdict, as often has been shown before, that whatever gloss and whatever covering may be thrown around a proceeding such as I have endeavoured to expose, it is at once the highest and most grateful duty of an English jury to detect deceit and to defeat oppression.

LONGEVITY OF IRISH PAUPERS.—A pauper woman lately died in the Mullingar Union Workhouse, named Sally Murray, in her 103rd year. The following number of persons, of the ages stated, have been inmates of the workhouse during the past twelve months, most of them still remaining:—Of the age of 70—twenty-eight; between 70 and 80—twenty-four; of the age of 80—twelve; between 80 and 90—five; between 90 and 100—two; exceeding 100—two.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

NOTWITHSTANDING that it is pretty generally considered that the two Southern Commissions will be given up by the American Government, the market for Home Securities has been somewhat active this week, and prices have had a dropping tendency. The quantity of stock disposed of, however, has been by no means extensive. Consols, for Money, have realised 94½; Ditto, for Account, 94½; Reduced and New Three per Cent, 91½ to 92½; Exchequer Bills, 12s. to 12s. 6d. Bank Stock has marked 23s to 24s. Indian Stock, 4s. 6d. to 4s. 8d. changed hands to a great extent, at steady currencies. The Five per Cent. Stock has marked 105½; Rupee paper, 98½ and 104½. The Bonds have been done at 14s to 17s 6d. and the Debentures at 98½ to 99½. India Stock, for Account, has been 73½.

Full and complete bullion have come to hand, and rather large parcels have been disposed of to the Bank of England, the stock in which is now over £16,000,000. Silver is in great request, and Mexican dollars have realised 50½ per ounce. Gold, valued at £227 7s, has arrived from Melbourne.

Advices from Paris are of a more favourable character. The stock of cotton in the Bank of France has been increased by £200,000, and upwards of £1,000,000 in bills have been discounted within the last few days.

The steamer from New York has brought about £200,000 in gold; but as the exchange for bankers' bills has declined from 111 to 110½, the gold is not so much in demand as it was.

The amount of business done in the Foreign House has been by no means numerous; nevertheless, the fluctuations in prices have been by no means extensive. Brazil Five per Cent. has realised 100; Chilean Four and a Half per Cent. 84½; Mexican Three per Cent. 77½; Graciosa Deferred, 84½; Saranish Five per Cent. 77½; Spanish New Deferred, 41½; Ditto, Certificates, 85; Turkish Old Six per Cent. 79½; Ditto, New, 70½; Venezuelan Three per Cent. 22½ and Italian Five per Cent. 92½.

Joint stock Bank Shares have been dealt in to a moderate extent. Australia have marked 41½; English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank, 41½; London Chartered Bank, 41½; London and County, 39½; London and South Africa, 9½; London and Westminster, 73½; Oriental, 54½; Ottoman, 18½; and Union of London, 29½.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—The supply of English wheat on offer this week has been again limited; nevertheless, both red and white qualities have moved off heavily, at barely stationary prices. Fine foreign wheats have been held at full quotations; but inferior parcels have commanded very little attention. The barley trade has continued in a sluggish state, and the currencies have had a drooping tendency. We have no change to notice in the value of malt. Oats, though unaltered in price, were a dull inquiry; and the demand for both beans and peas was wholly in retail. The flour trade was heavy, at barely late rates.

ESTIMATED CURRENT.—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, new, 57s. to 66s.; ditto, white, new, 60s. to 62s.; grinding barley, 25s. to 30s.; distilling do., 3s. to 34s.; malt, new, 31s. to 41s.; rye, 38s. to 41s.; malt, 36s. to 68s.; feed oats, 18s. to 25s.; potato do., 26s. to 34s.; tick beans, 38s. to 39s.; grey peas, 35s. to 37s.; white do., 38s. to 42s.; pot. do., 10s. to 11s. Turnip-made flour, 40s. to 50s.; country marks, 40s. to 41s.; town households, 41s. to 47s. per 280 lbs.

CATTLE.—Although the supplies of fat stock on offer this week have not been so extensive, the trade generally has ruled very inactive, on rather easier terms:—Beef, from 3s. 2d. to 4s. 10d.; mutton, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 5d.; veal, 4s. 3d. to 5s. 4d.; and pork, 4s. to 5s. per 8lb. to 10lb. carcasses.

THE SKELETON may be considered steady; but the business doing in it is by no means extensive.

SUGAR.—There is a fair demand for most kinds of raw sugar, at full currencies, although the stock is 70,107 tons, against 51,151 tons at the same period last year. Refined goods are firm, at 48s. 6d. per cwt. for common brown lump.

COFFEE.—We have to report a fair sale for nearly all kinds, at full prices. The stock is 7901 tons against 7345 tons in 1861.

RICE.—Importers are firm in their demands; but the business doing is somewhat restricted.

PROVISIONS.—Fine foreign butters are somewhat dearer, and the value of other articles is well supported. Bacon commands previous rates; but the inquiry for it is somewhat restricted. Other provisions rule about stationary.

TALLOW.—The market is quiet, at 50s. 3d. to 50s. 6d. for new P.V.C. on the spot. The stock is 33,412 casks, against 72,632 ditto at the same period last year.

OLIVE.—Lined oil is in fair request, at £33 15s. to £34. Rape is firm, at from £44 to £45 10s.; cocoanut, £19 to £20; and fine palm, £12 10s. to £14. American turpentine is quoted at 68s. per cwt.

SPICES.—Rice is in moderate request, at full prices. Proof Leeward, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d.; proof East India, 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d. per gallon. Brandy is selling at from 9s. 5d. to 11s. 4d.; Hambro' spirit, 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d.; English do., 2s. to 2s. 5d.; and English gin, for export, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 2d. per gallon.

HAY AND STRAW.—Meadow hay, £2 5s. to £5; clover, £3 10s. to £5; and straw, £1 8s. to £1 18s. per load. Trade slow.

COALS.—Best Newcastle, 17s. to 18s.; seconds, 15s. 3d. to 16s.; Hartley's, 15s. to 16s.; and Newcastle, 14s. to 15s. per ton.

HOPS.—The market, generally, is firm, at very full prices. Mid and East Kent pockets, 170s. to 231s.; Weald of Kent, 140s. to 185s.; and Sussex, 135s. to 165s. per cwt.

ALL descriptions continue to move off slowly; nevertheless the quotations are well supported.

POTATOES.—Full average supplies are on offer, and the demand is inactive, at from 80s. to 150s. per ton.

LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 3, 1862.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—G. FENSTER, Southampton, grocer. BANKRUPT.—R. E. KNOTT, Strand, clerk.—J. HARKEN, Dudley, licensed victualler.—R. E. BARNES, Ripley.—J. HOLTHAM, Swans, builder.—T. ROBERTS, Llanelli, grocer.—T. HUGHES, Bradford, boot maker.—J. CALVERT, Chester.—T. BLANCHARD, Manchester, glass dealer.—W. MIDDLETON, Stratford, joiner.—R. FARMER, Garton, boat Cardiff, builder.—F. SMITH, Oxford, carver.—A. SELWICK, Birkenhead, tailor.—E. S. DAVIES, Norwich, hotchick manufacturer.—W. PAUL, Old Catton, Norfolk, innkeeper.—R. PARKIN, Sheffield, hosiery dealer.—J. W. BRITKAR, Radcliffe, farmer.—W. DIXON, Shottery-bridge, Durham, spinster.—J. COOPER, Birmingham, glasscutter.—J. WITHERS, Birmingham, cooper.—J. B. BENTLEY, Flaxted, Standon, Hertfordshire.—G. KILBY, Oxfordshire, farmer.—T. CRODDY, Brighton, watchmaker.—J. SHAW, Staffordshire, farmer.—W. GORRIB, Sheffield, bootmaker.—W. TURNER, Sheffield, grocer.—W. GOSWOLD, Coventry, street cleaner.—G. RUSSELL, Glasgow, Kent, butcher.—W. E. NORTON, Dudley, innkeeper.—C. SMITH, Catfield, innkeeper.—S. B. FLETCHER, Great Driffield, trader.—J. LARKMAN, Norfolk, Blacksmith.—J. T. GRANT, White, carpenter.—J. WATSON, Gloucester, timber dealer.—SARAH BAKER, Epsom, provision dealer.—T. PARKER, Lincolnshire.—J. FARRINGTON, Hertford, licensed brewer.—M. ELLIS, Stretford, Cheshire, grocer.—J. C. SEIER, Lincoln-street, Mile end, mining agent.—M. HEYMAN, 81, A'rdale, dealer in fancy goods.—M. FLEW, Hampstead, auctioneer.—F. OTTEWILL, Ilkington, photographic apparatus maker.—E. MARSHALL and G. A. ELLIOTT, London, auctioneers.—W. GRATTAN, Chelsea, house agent.—G. RUSSELL, Croydon, carrier.—T. JONES, Cripplegate, cap-front manufacturer.—G. M. BERRY, Adulston, North, farmer.—W. C. VIGAN, Southwark, cooper.—T. B. KING, sen., Northampton, commercial traveller.—G. W. COCK, Poole, plumber.—A. GORDON, C.E., Whitehall.—R. LIDDELOW, Norwich, carriage maker.—T. CHURCH, Chamberlain, manufacturer.—D. HOWARD, Battersea, beachop keeper.—J. CHURCH, Chamberlain, manufacturer.—H. C. COOPER, Salisbury-street, Strand, violinist.—E. BLAKE, Surbiton, Surrey, riding-master.—J. ELL, Copenhagen-street, Ilkington, baker.—A. GOLDSTANDER, New Fekish, commission agent.—T. BURCHER, dealer in Hampstead-road.—MARY ALLCOCK, Hulse, Lancashire, stipendiary.—J. F. FARRER, late of Bacup, Lancashire.—H. GEORGE, Newport Monmouthshire, brewer.—B. BUCHANAN, Ashburton, Devon, mason.—H. DABCH, Devonshire, W. FEEBLE, Sneyds Croft, Staffordshire.—J. SHELTON, Fawley, Oxfordshire, quarryer.—C. RILES, Uxbridge, horse dealer.—H. KENNEL, Warwick, lighterman.—J. F. FARRER, late of Bacup, Lancashire.—H. GEORGE, Newport Monmouthshire, brewer.—B. BUCHANAN, Ashburton, Devon, mason.—H. DABCH, Devonshire, W. FEEBLE, Sneyds Croft, Staffordshire.—J. SHELTON, Fawley, Oxfordshire, quarryer.—C. RILES, Uxbridge, horse dealer.—H. KENNEL, Warwick, lighterman.—J. F. FARRER, late of Bacup, Lancashire.—H. GEORGE, Newport Monmouthshire, brewer.—B. 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